

**Agency:** 303 Department of Health  
**Decision Package Code/Title:** A5 Screening and Genetics Unit Reduction  
**Budget Period:** 2015-17  
**Budget Level:** PL-Performance Level

**Recommendation Summary Text:**

This decision package will eliminate General Fund State support for Regional Genetic Clinics that provides genetic evaluation, counseling, and diagnostic testing resources to predominately rural communities and contracted quality improvement and training efforts for the Early Hearing-loss Detection, Diagnosis and Intervention (EHDDI) program.

**Fiscal Detail**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>		<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
001-1	General Fund -State	(415,000)	(414,000)	(829,000)
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>(415,000)</b>	<b>(414,000)</b>	<b>(829,000)</b>

**Package Description:**

This package eliminates one community based program supported by the Department of Health (DOH), Regional Genetics Clinics and reduces efforts for a population based newborn hearing screening program. This will result in less quality assurance for hospital based Universal Newborn Screening and audiologic diagnostic services and end contracts that help support community-based genetic services in rural Eastern and Southwest Washington communities.

**Early Hearing-loss, Detection, Diagnosis and Intervention:**

Federal funds will continue to support the programs' goals of ensuring all infants receive newborn hearing screening by one month of age; referring all infants who fail their hearing screening to diagnostic testing by three months of age; and enrolling all infants with hearing loss into early intervention services by six months of age. The General Fund State reduction will eliminate contracts with Seattle Children's Hospital audiology and with Hands and Voices. The Seattle Children's contract provides training and technical assistance to hospital based screeners and community based audiologists. Hands and Voices trains parents as "guides" to help other families with a newly diagnosed infant navigate the health and educational needs they face.

**Regional Genetics Clinics:**

The department provides resources to local communities for genetic evaluation, counseling, and diagnostic testing in select, predominately rural Washington Regional Genetics Clinics. This proposal eliminates contracts with these genetics clinics, impacting services to low income and rural populations.

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**Narrative Justification and Impact Statement:**

*What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?*

None

**Performance Measure Detail**

**Activity: A010- Promote Family and Child Health and Safety**

*Is this DP essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?*

No.

*Does this decision package provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?*

No.

*What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?*

None.

*What alternatives were explored by the agency and why was this alternative chosen?*

The Department of Health (DOH) used the following process to get to the mandated 15 percent General Fund State Reductions:

- All General Fund State supported programs were put into three tiers:
  - Tier 1 – Programs that are 100 percent foundational public health services
  - Tier 2 – Programs that are partially foundational public health services and/or directly tied to the Governor's Results Washington measures and/or part of the agency strategic plan
  - Tier 3 – All remaining general fund programs
- Tier 2 and Tier 3 programs were scored using the public health criteria matrix, then ranked using the scores and our professional judgment
- Reductions were proposed from the ranked list
- The DOH widely shared our draft reductions both internally and externally to the department and sought feedback

*What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?*

Adopting this package means quality improvement activities aimed at sustaining and improving newborn hearing screening practices and timely referrals for infants in need of additional services will be eliminated. All contracted support for genetic services in Eastern Washington (Spokane, Tri-Cities and Yakima) as well as traveling medical geneticist from Seattle Children's and Mary Bridge Health Center to outreach sites will be eliminated. Currently about 13,000 families are served in Regional

Genetic Clinics. With this reduction we anticipate a decrease of at least 300 families served, predominately in rural areas.

***What is the relationship, if any, to the state capital budget?***

None.

***What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?***

Contracts would not be renewed.

***Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions***

Revenue:

None.

Expenditures:

**Early Hearing-loss, Detection, and Intervention (EHDDI)** - (\$262,000)

Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and ongoing EHDDI will be reduced (\$131,000) of General Fund-State each FY.

**Regional Genetics Clinics** – (\$567,000)

Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2016 Regional Genetic Clinics will be reduced (\$284,000) and FY 2017 (\$283,000) ongoing of General Fund State each FY thereafter.

***Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?***

Reductions are assumed to be ongoing.

***For federal grants: Does this request require a maintenance of effort or state match?***

Not applicable.

***For all other funding: Does this request fulfill a federal grant's maintenance of effort or match requirement?***

No.

<b><u>Object Detail</u></b>		<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
A	Salaries and Wages			
B	Employee Benefits			
C	Personal Service Contracts			
E	Goods and Services	(5,000)	(5,000)	(10,000)
G	Travel			
N	Grants, Bnefits & Client Svs	(410,000)	(409,000)	(819,000)
T	Intra-Agency Reimbursements			
	<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>(415,000)</b>	<b>(414,000)</b>	<b>(829,000)</b>