



## Addressing the Opioid Crisis in the North Sound Region

*A Project of Healthier Washington's Medicaid Transformation Demonstration*

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The **North Sound Accountable Community of Health (North Sound ACH)** is a not-for-profit partnership working to improve the health of residents of our region. The North Sound region, home to more than one million people, includes Snohomish, Skagit, Island, San Juan and Whatcom counties, and 8 Tribal nations.

We believe that health is determined by more than access to medical care, so we're working to create a new system that includes clinicians, social services, community groups, and others who influence the health of people in our communities. Together we are working to ensure better health for those living in the North Sound area. The North Sound ACH is part of the Healthier Washington Initiative and Medicaid Transformation Demonstration, and one of nine ACHs around the state.

### *What is the Medicaid Transformation Demonstration?*

The Demonstration is a five-year agreement between the Washington State Health Care Authority and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that provides up to \$1.5 billion federal investment for regional health system transformation projects that benefit Apple Health (Medicaid) clients.

Medicaid Transformation Demonstration is transforming the way care is delivered and paid for in Washington state. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have finalized an agreement on a five-year demonstration that supports the goals of Healthier Washington—better health, better care, and lower costs. Under the terms of the Medicaid Transformation demonstration, the state will receive up to \$1.5 billion in federal investment in return for rewarding high-quality care, taking a person-centered, holistic approach to care, partnering with communities to address social determinants of health, and holding down cost increases.

This demonstration sets a course for the nearly 1.9 million people in Washington who get their health care coverage through Medicaid (Apple Health). It reflects a collaborative effort to create a streamlined health system, created with input from health care leaders, providers, community advocacy groups, public health, and citizens.

For more information, visit:

[www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/initiative-1-transformation-through-achs](http://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/initiative-1-transformation-through-achs)

## Medicaid Transformation Demonstration Project 3A: Addressing the Opioid Use Public Health Crisis

Addressing the Opioid Crisis is a priority project area for all ACH's across the state. The North Sound ACH will work together with diverse partners and systems in our region to address four key aspects of the Opioid Crisis:

1. PREVENTION – Prevent opioid misuse and abuse
2. TREATMENT – Link individuals with OUD to treatment services
3. OVERDOSE PREVENTION – Intervene in opioid overdoses to prevent death
4. RECOVERY – Promote long-term stabilization and whole-person care

Project Objective: Support the achievement of the state's goals to reduce opioid-related morbidity and mortality through strategies that target prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.

Target Population: Medicaid beneficiaries, including youth, who use, misuse, or abuse, prescription opioids and/or heroin. The specific target populations for these interventions will be identified in 2018.

Project Activities: The activities outlined below have been developed by the ACH Opioid Workgroup, and are based on Healthier Washington's Medicaid Transformation Demonstration Toolkit requirements, which include specific reporting and performance measures. Activities in this area will build on the work the North Sound BHO and partners around the region are already doing.

*PLEASE NOTE: Details will be further developed and partners identified during the Demonstration planning phase in 2018. These strategies represent best thinking in the current stage.*

ACTIVITIES	IMPACTS
Social marketing and public awareness	Changing community norms/practices to reduce opioid availability
Safe medication storage and disposal	
Improve opioid prescribing practices	
Prevention education for youth	Outreach, education, and early intervention to connect high risk individuals with treatment and reduce hospitalization/ED visits
Mobile treatment and outreach	
Increase SBIRT services in the region	
Scale up comprehensive opioid treatment (mat)	
Increase availability and use of Naloxone	
Enhance or expand community recovery services	Ensure available/effective treatment to increase penetration rate/outcomes
Expand workforce capacity to address the epidemic	

**Want to learn more or get involved?**

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