Wash State Health Care Authority

2023-25 First Supplemental Budget Session

Maintenance Level - 93 - Mandatory Caseload Adjustments

Agency Recommendation Summary

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) submits a placeholder request for the 2024 Supplemental budget to align its biennial medical assistance and community behavioral health services appropriations with the anticipated Apple Health client caseloads to be assumed in the October 2023 caseload forecast. The agency's current appropriations are based upon an older February 2023 forecast. Therefore, once the October 2023 caseload forecast is complete, the amounts reflected in this request will be the anticipated expenditure change created by different forecasted caseload assumptions.

Program Recommendation Summary

CBH - Community Behavorial Health

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) submits a placeholder request for the 2024 Supplemental budget to align its biennial community behavioral health services appropriations with the anticipated Apple Health client caseloads to be assumed in the October 2023 caseload forecast. The agency's current appropriations are based upon an older February 2023 forecast. Therefore, once the October 2023 caseload forecast is complete, the amounts reflected in this request will be the anticipated expenditure change created by different forecasted caseload assumptions.

OTH - HCA - Other

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) submits a placeholder request for the 2024 Supplemental budget to align its biennial medical assistance services appropriations with the anticipated Apple Health client caseloads to be assumed in the October 2023 caseload forecast. The agency's current appropriations are based upon an older February 2023 forecast. Therefore, once the October 2023 caseload forecast is complete, the amounts reflected in this request will be the anticipated expenditure change created by different forecasted caseload assumptions.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary *Dollars in Thousands*	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	$0	$0	**$0**	$0	$0	**$0**
Total Expenditures	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Decision Package Description

HCA submits a placeholder request to align Apple Health services funding with projected caseload changes that will be identified in the October 2023 medical assistance expenditure forecast and community behavioral health expenditure projections. Current funding is based on the February 2023 projections.

These projections help the state estimate the cost of health care services provided through Apple Health. To create the expenditure projections, information is provided by the Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) and the Office of Financial Management’s (OFM) official accounting system. These projections, which are produced in February and October each year, are used by both the Governor and Legislature to inform the budget for HCA.

Once the October 2023 cost projections are complete, the additional funding needed will be based on the projected incremental caseload changes between the February 2023 and October 2023 forecasted caseloads. The incremental caseload changes will then be multiplied by the February 2023 per capita rates to determine the fiscal impact driven solely by differences between current and prior forecasted caseloads. Factors affecting caseloads include changes in the economy affecting jobs and incomes, changes in populations and demographics, and changes in eligibility determinations in compliance with federal requirements.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

This request does not propose to expand or alter the current Apple Health program.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

This request is a placeholder until the completion of the October 2023 medical assistance forecast. At that time, the fiscal impact from caseload changes will be calculated.

Workforce Assumptions:

No additional staff are requested.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

Governor's Results Washington Goal 4: Healthy and Safe Communities: Fostering the health of Washingtonians from a healthy start to safe and supported future.

- Healthy People – Provide access to good medical care to improve people's lives.

HCA's Strategic Goals:

- Ensure equitable access to integrated, whole-person care;
- Achieve value-based care through aligned payments and systems; and
- Build person- and community-centered systems.

Performance Outcomes:

This request will allow HCA to continue to provide access to quality health care to approximately 1.9 million Apple Health clients and maintain the current coverage policies of the Apple Health program.

HCA expects to improve the quality and value of health care for Apple Health clients by achieving the following goals:

- Reduce avoidable use of intensive services and settings;
- Improve population health;
- Accelerate the transition to value-based payment; and
- Ensure that Medicaid per-capita cost growth is below national trends.

Equity Impacts

Community outreach and engagement:

This request adjusts the budget for an already existing program to align with projected future costs. Since it neither increases nor decreases the services provided to Apple Health clients, no community outreach or engagement is necessary.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

This request will not create disproportional impacts to any of the populations that benefit from the Apple Health program.

Target Populations or Communities:

This request will allow HCA to continue to provide access to quality health care to Apple Health clients and maintain the current coverage policies of the Apple Health program.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable.

State Workforce Impacts:

Not applicable.

Intergovernmental:

Not applicable.

Stakeholder Response:

Not applicable.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable.

Changes from Current Law:

Not applicable.

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

The Washington State Apple Health Program primarily consists of the Medicaid entitlement program. Individuals who meet eligibility requirements are therefore guaranteed health care coverage and have a legal right to have payments made to their providers for covered services.

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

Not applicable.

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

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