



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL – WASHINGTON

Universal Healthcare Pathway

Our Origins

We are Washington's oldest grassroots organization dedicated to universal healthcare. The Board of Directors includes healthcare professionals and long-time advocates focused on accessible, equitable, high quality, comprehensive, sustainable, affordable, patient-centered, and publicly and privately delivered healthcare for all Washington residents.

1994-1996 | Washington Single Payer Action Network (WA-SPAN)

- Washington, along with several other States, formed its SPAN organization to advocate for state-based single payer healthcare.

1997-2002 | Health Care Now! transitioned to Health Care 2000

- Initiative 725 for universal, publicly funded healthcare did not gather enough signatures.

Washington Health Security Trust (WHST)

2003-2018 | Health Care for All - Washington

- In 2002, the group changed its name to Health Care for All – Washington (HCFA-WA) and transformed the Initiative into the (WHST) bill that was filed each biennium from 2003-2018.
- In 2013, despite significant support in a hearing room filled to capacity and unable to accommodate all of the advocates, the bill did not advance.

Legislative Support - Strategy Shift

2019-2023 | Universal Health Care “Work Group” and long-term “Commission”

- **In 2019**, HCFA-WA supported the **Pathway to Universal Health Care** bill and secured funding for the **Universal Health Care Work Group**, which included four members of HCFA-WA. The Work Group identified potential savings in a single-payer plan, and recommended the creation of another entity to design such a potential plan.
- **In 2022**, we were instrumental in creating the **Universal Health Care Commission (UHCC)**. We have supported the work of UHCC and the creation of its Finance Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) by attending and commenting at the public meetings of both bodies.
- **For Fiscal Years 2024-2025**, our work led to an increase in the funding for the Universal Health Care Commission to \$1.19 million, which was 64% greater than what was requested by the Governor.
- **In 2024**, our work led to a budget proviso for studies to implement Medicaid auto-enrollment. We have worked closely with legislators to establish consolidated purchasing of healthcare coverage for the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) and the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB). We have also worked with healthcare agencies and legislators to expand healthcare coverage for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.
- **In 2025**, we worked with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to provide funding to the Universal Health Care Commission for consultant work.

- **We supported** proviso studies to fund Medicaid autoenrollment and led to the introduction of legislation for consolidation of PEBB and SEBB.
- **Currently**, we are working with the Universal Health Care Commission on transitional strategies.

Collaborative Action in Building the Movement

- **In 2012**, we joined **One Payer States**, a **national** coalition of organizations with state-based single-payer legislation or initiatives, now including over 20 states. **In 2013**, we joined with other Washington state advocacy organizations as a founding member of the **Health Care is a Human Right** coalition and have participated in public forums, rallies, and presentations over the years
- **In 2017**, we shared WHST language with Whole Washington and urged them to use it as the framework for their plan
- **Since 2018**, we have worked with other advocacy organizations and legislators to secure funding for studies, work groups, Commissions, and Boards
- **In 2025**, we supported the Senate Joint Memorial 8004 that puts our state legislature on record supporting single-payer universal healthcare
- **In August 2025**, we initiated the **UHCC Advocacy Roundtable** with four other single-payer advocacy organizations and members of the UHCC and FTAC to share our vision, a timeline, legislative actions, and the involvement of labor and members of the public.

Next Steps

Save the safety net

- Mobilize opposition to cuts in Medicaid (Apple Health), the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (the Affordable Care Act Marketplace), public health (vaccine availability, communicable diseases, chronic diseases), and health equity (immigrant coverage, reproductive care, gender-affirming care).
- Support the social determinants of health (housing, food security, environment, education, and socioeconomic status).

Consolidate current healthcare availability and access

- Consolidate state-funded healthcare coverage to qualify for waivers and expand coverage for Washingtonians not covered by employer-funded or federal-funded insurance.
- Improve access by creating a healthcare system based on people's needs rather than corporate profit.
- Improve health equity for Washingtonians by eliminating barriers to care because of age, race, gender, immigration status, or income.

Healthcare is a human right.

Everybody In! Nobody out!

www.hcfawa.org

August 2025