



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45010, Olympia, Washington 98504-5010

April 2, 2013

Dear Tribal Leaders:

RE: Governor Inslee's Proposed 2013-15 Biennial Budget

Last week, Governor Inslee released his [budget](#). His focus, as he promised the state, was jobs and education. In a sharp turn from the recent past, however, Governor Inslee proposed a budget that better protects the vulnerable. I'm pleased to report that for people with mental illness, seniors, persons with developmental disabilities and children, this Governor did not turn a blind eye.

Much work lies ahead to repair many breaks in our safety net. Still, for this Governor, the values are clear. Despite what our larger priorities may be, by his actions the Governor clearly said that our people matter and the vulnerable must be protected. This is a philosophy that all of us in the human services world share and live every day.

Some of the Governor's human services budget priorities:

- Employee wages restored, 3 percent wage cut reversed
- Individual and agency long-term care provider wage increase funded
- Commitment to protecting children
- Commitment to protecting adults with developmental disabilities and seniors
- Funding for existing program to avoid foster care
- Funding for additional services for people with developmental disabilities
- Funding for better staffing and security in state psychiatric hospitals
- Funding for enhanced treatment facilities for people with complex needs
- Funding for additional psychiatric evaluation and treatment beds

Admittedly, many of you will continue to see unmet needs; we at DSHS see the same. Nonetheless, I encourage you to be inspired by the philosophy behind these priorities, and the philosophy that created this budget. In a time where jobs are the necessary focus and education funding is required by judicial mandate, Governor Inslee said, "enough is enough, our people matter."

After six withering years, the needs are great, both for the people we serve and for our organizations. Still, in the Governor's budget, hope is reborn as we begin to turn the corner and point again in the direction of meeting desperate needs.

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Thank you for the opportunity to serve side by side with you as we continue our mission of transforming lives.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Quigley
Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services
~ *We transform lives* ~