

## **Washington State CHW Task Force- DOH Next Steps**

Response to Questions from 1<sup>st</sup> CHW Task Force Meeting

Response provided in partnership with Assistant Secretary for Prevention and Community Health, Lacy Fehrenbach

### **What will DOH do with the Washington State CHW Task Force Recommendations?**

Our next steps with the Washington State CHW Task Force recommendations will depend on the specific content of the recommendations. Prior to the recommendations being developed there are some broad commitments we can make.

The Washington State Department of Health has the best opportunity to advance the recommendations of the CHW Task Force as long as the recommendations are specific and actionable.

There is currently no funding allocated to moving forward the recommendations of the Washington State CHW Task Force for the fiscal year beginning in July 2019. While we may still be able to do some work, the lack of specific dedicated funding will impact how much work we are able to do.

We commit to widely disseminate the recommendations of the Task Force. We will share the recommendations with internal DOH staff, including executive leadership and staff throughout the agency. We will also share out the recommendations with our partners in the community, including returning to discuss the report with each of the CHW Networks participants who hosted community conversations in December 2018 and January 2019. We will also share the CHW Task Force recommendations with our local and tribal public health partners and community partners.

We commit to partnering with the entity best suited to lead the next steps with the CHW Task Force. Because the next steps with the Washington State CHW Task Force have not yet been determined, the organization to lead the next steps with the Task Force has not yet been identified. This may mean the next steps with the recommendations stay within DOH and we identify the staff members best suited to continue the work. It may also be transitioning the work to another organization, such as an academic institution, the Health Care Authority, or a combination of groups, including CHW Networks with DOH as the convener.

We commit to moving to align our existing DOH CHW Training program with the recommendations of the Washington State CHW Task Force. We want our existing DOH CHW Training program to serve the CHW community. We will identify areas where the CHW Training program could be improved to better reflect the recommendations of the CHW Task Force and create an actionable plan to move towards reflect the recommendations. As mentioned, the pacing of this activity may be impacted by our budget.