



Yakima Health District

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<http://www.yakimapublichealth.org>

Victoria Wachino, Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Wachino:

I am writing in support of Washington State's Medicaid Transformation Waiver. This waiver is a transforming opportunity to deliver healthcare to the whole person and to fully operationalize a structure of support for Social Determinants of Health interventions.

The Yakima Health District is the first and oldest health district in the nation and has a proud tradition of providing public health services to people living and working in Yakima County for over 100 years. Our work spans public health prevention, communicable disease surveillance and environmental health oversight. While we are committed to our public health mission, we recognize that the population health issues facing our community are immense; Yakima County is a vast, rural area with a large urban core, home to a population with high poverty levels and significant health and economic challenges.

The Health District believes that Washington State's planned efforts permitted through an 1115 waiver have the potential to positively influence population health outcomes in our rural valley. Expanding health innovation in impoverished areas such as ours will provide an invaluable entry for at-risk individuals into an integrated system of health care and supportive services.

The Yakima Health District has been a supportive partner in statewide healthcare transformation; we helped found our Community of Health (COH) and have been active in population health trainings, panels and community awareness. We believe strongly that a Medicaid Transformation Waiver is vital in our statewide effort to reach the Triple Aim and ask for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andre Fresco".

Andre Fresco
Administrator