

# Connection Is Everything

2024 Community Health Snapshot WASHINGTON



## A message from our leaders

At Kaiser Permanente Washington, our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. Good health – physical, mental, and social health – is deeply connected to where people live, work, learn, play, and grow.

Our community health efforts were guided by our Community Health Needs Assessment, which identified top priorities including access to care, economic opportunity, housing for health, food and nutrition security, and mental health.

Equitable care and access doesn't mean providing the same health care and services to all people. Instead, it's about making sure each person is provided the care they need to be healthy.

We know that the factors that shape health, like access to safe housing or nutritious food, play a bigger role in health than medical care alone. That's why we work closely with our communities to address the biggest challenges affecting people's health.

In 2024, we invested more than \$110 million in our community through partnerships, programs, and direct services, as well as over 6,000 employee volunteer hours. This Community Health Snapshot highlights some of those investments.

We are proud of the work we accomplished in 2024, together with our teams, community leaders, and partner organizations. We continue to advance our work by making community health a critical part of how we measure and report on the quality of care we provide our members.

#### **Cynthia Dold**

President

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington

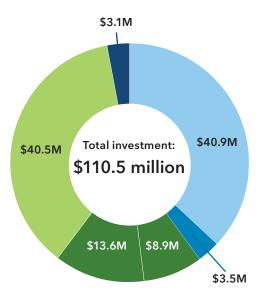
#### Linda Tolbert, MD, JD, EdD, MPH

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Medical Director
Washington Permanente Medical Group



## 2024 by the numbers

# Washington community health investment by program



#### \$40.9 million

Charitable coverage and care

#### \$3.5 million

Grants and donations

#### \$8.9 million

Health professions education

#### \$13.6 million

Research

#### \$40.5 million

Medicaid and other government programs

#### \$3.1 million

Other



KAISER PERMANENTE
WASHINGTON EMPLOYEES CARE

6,000

hours volunteered by employees



## Housing for health

As housing and health care costs have continued to rise while pandemic-era financial assistance programs have expired, many community members and community-based organizations have struggled to afford the cost of living in Washington.

To help address this, we have a low-interest loan fund to create and preserve rental homes for people with low incomes. The fund has supported projects in Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue, Shoreline, Totem Lake, Kirkland, Burien, and Lacey.



#### BY THE NUMBERS

1,648

affordable housing units renovated or constructed since 2019

399

affordable housing units renovated or constructed in 2024

## Food and nutrition security

A nutritious diet can help <u>prevent and</u> <u>manage ongoing conditions</u> like heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Yet, <u>47 million</u> <u>people</u> in the U.S. don't have enough to eat or can't afford healthy food.

We continue to invest in food security for youth and families. Our grant projects are increasing participation in school and community meal programs by addressing stigma; expanding access to summer and after-school meals and culturally specific meals; and enhancing family purchasing power for fresh foods.

BY THE NUMBERS

43,820

K-12 students and their families provided with food support

27,000

new participants received food and nutrition support





### Access to care

Building on our 9 years of support, we provided Seattle/King County Clinic with essential supplies and provided staffing for eye care services. Additionally, 127 of our employees volunteered their time at the clinic. Seattle/King County clinic is the largest community-driven free health clinic of its kind in the U.S. The clinic offers free care to people who otherwise struggle to afford or access services.

Separately, we provided \$325,000 to support specialty care coordination programs at Project Access Northwest and Pierce County Project Access. These organizations recruit health care professionals to provide medical care for people without insurance coverage and people who have low incomes and limited access to care.



#### BY THE NUMBERS

3,000

people received free medical, dental, and vision care at last year's Seattle/King County Clinic

## Mental health

We continued to provide mental health youth programs across Washington communities. Mental health conditions among youth are not adequately addressed and are increasing.

Offering programs that incorporate culturally relevant social institutions and customs creates

opportunities for mental health intervention to help young people who are struggling. This year's work increased access to mental health providers, accelerated healing, and supported peer leadership opportunities.



#### BY THE NUMBERS

18,623

youth participated in mental health programs



## **Economic opportunity**

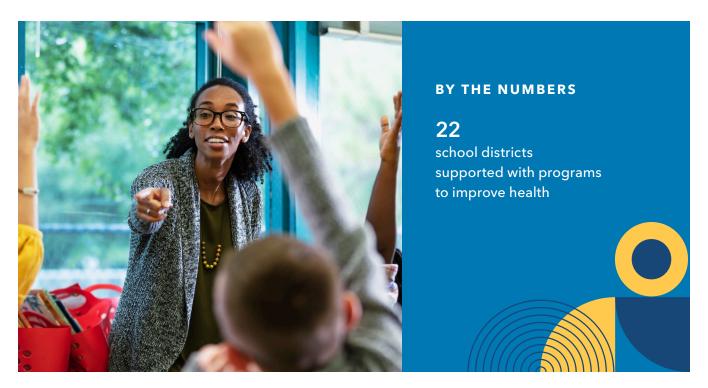
Through our ongoing partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation, we supported grassroots community organizing to bolster economic development efforts in Skyway and Everett.

We also supported the Everett Station District Alliance with a \$45,000 grant to advance a plan for development in the Everett Station District community. The plan will boost economic stability for residents and small businesses so they don't get displaced due to rising rents and property taxes.



## **Thriving Schools**

Together with our national school health partner, Healthier Generation, we support the social, mental, and physical health needs of students, teachers, and staff. Through in-person and virtual programs, we reached 22 under-resourced school districts across Washington. These include Everett Public Schools and the Kent and North Thurston school districts.





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