



# HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN KITSAP

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Assessment & Epidemiology



Presentation for:

Central Kitsap Community Council

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# Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP) 2024-2028

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These three, intersecting priority areas were selected based on participant votes:



## Healthcare

Bridge strengths and reduce barriers in our healthcare system while fostering comprehensive solutions to create a thriving equitable healthcare future.



## Housing & Homelessness

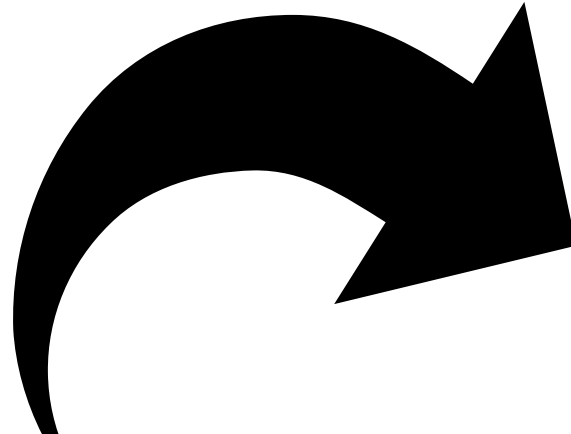
Increase safe and sustainable housing options across the continuum and create systems that provide pathways out of homelessness and into stable housing.



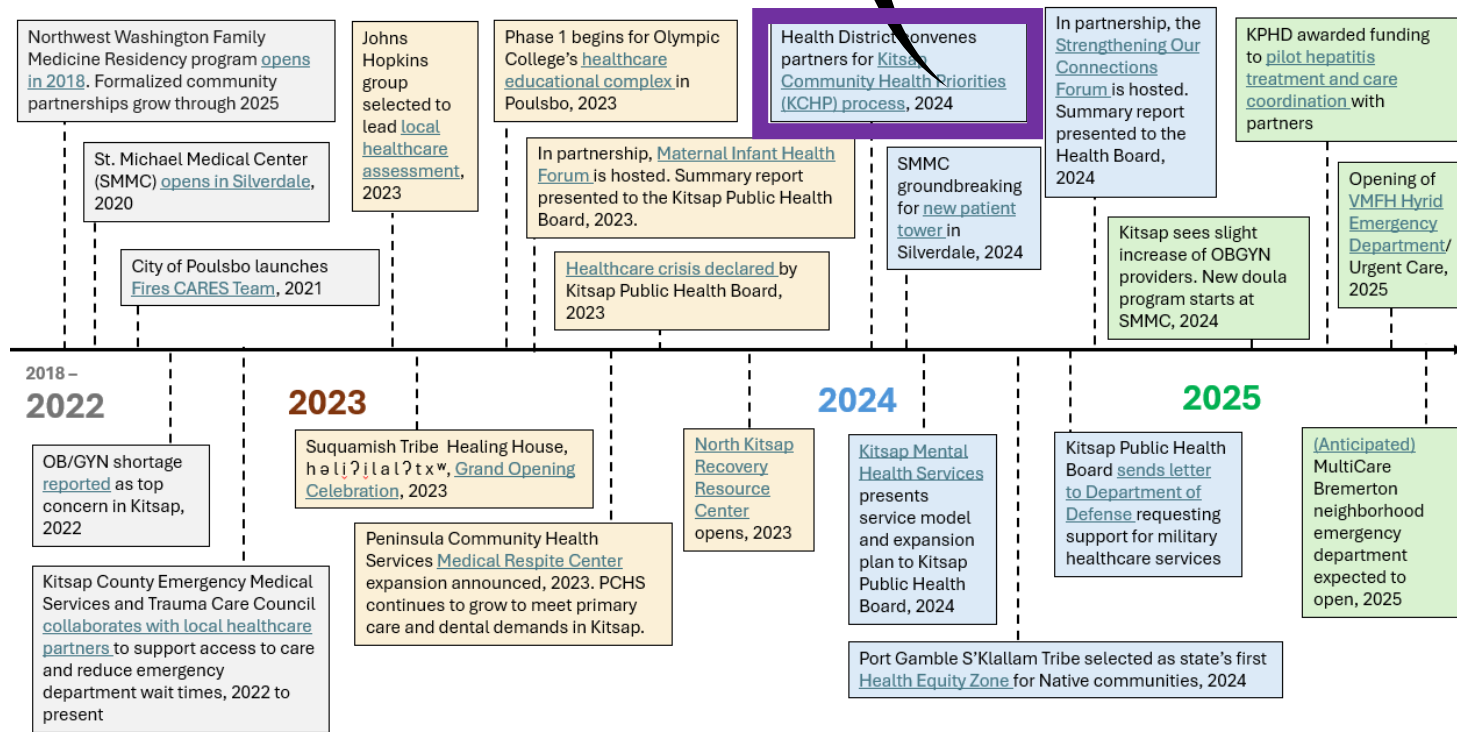
## Mental & Behavioral Health

Expand accessible, equitable and responsive services and supports to prevent, intervene, and treat mental/behavioral health and substance use disorders that meet people where they are.

# At –a– Glance: Timeline of Recent Healthcare Access Initiatives in Kitsap

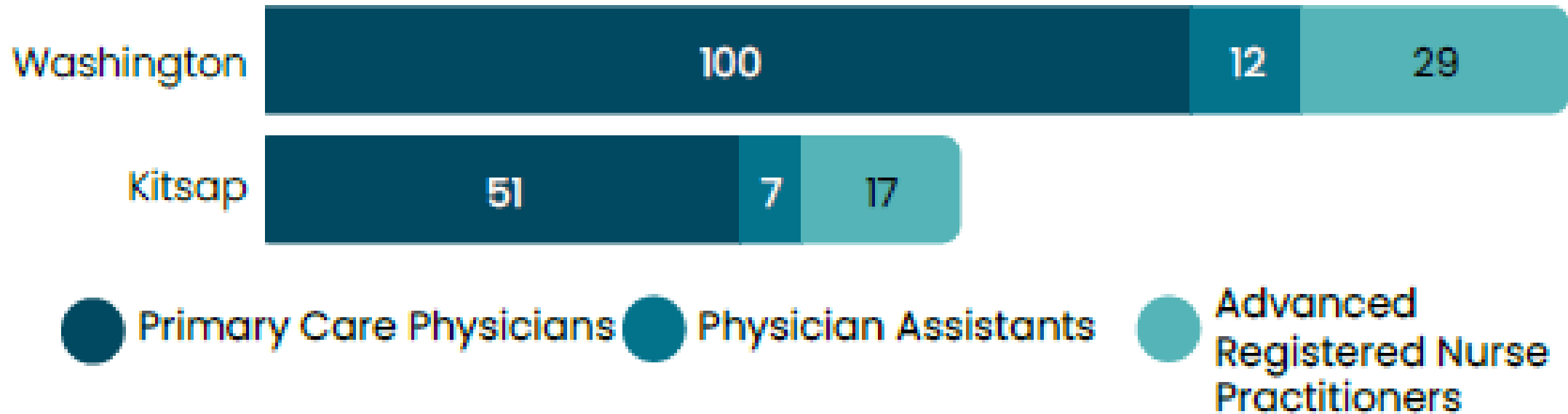


Health District convenes partners for [Kitsap Community Health Priorities \(KCHP\) process](#), 2024



# Healthcare Workforce Data

Figure 1. 2023 primary care providers per 100,000 residents:<sup>3</sup>



# Healthcare Workforce Data

Measure	Kitsap	Washington	Kitsap/WA Comparison
Primary care physicians (incl. family medicine, internal medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics) per 100,000 population (2023) <sup>1</sup>	51	100	↓ 49%*
OB/GYNs per 100,000 population (2023) <sup>1</sup>	6	14	↓ 57%*
ARNPs in provider networks per 100,000 population (2023) <sup>1</sup>	43	90	↓ 52%*
Physician assistants per 100,000 population (2020) <sup>2</sup>	30	44	↓ 35%*
Mental health care providers per 100,000 population (2024) <sup>3,4</sup>	473	523	↓ 10%*
Dentists per 100,000 population (2022) <sup>3,5</sup>	78	86	↓ 9%

\*Difference is statistically significant,  $p < 0.05$

# Healthcare Outcome Data

## Healthcare Authority/Medicaid Claims

About 1 in 4 Kitsap Medicaid adult clients did not have a primary care visit, and about 1 in 2 children did not have a comprehensive Well-Care visit in 2024<sup>1</sup>

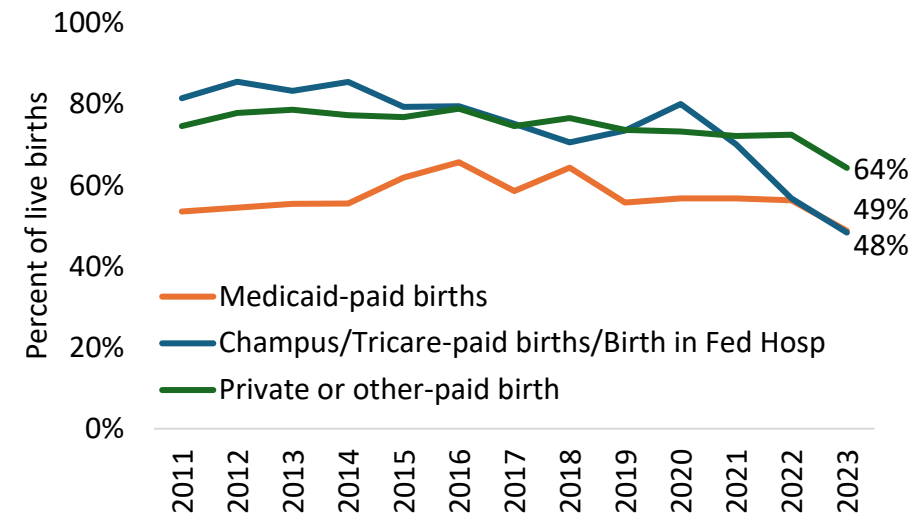
## Survey (BRFSS)

9.7% of Kitsap adults report delaying medical care due to cost (2024)<sup>2</sup>

16% of Kitsap adults report delaying medical care for reasons other than cost (2019)<sup>2</sup>

## Vital Statistics – Birth Certificates

Only 49% of Kitsap mothers with Medicaid and 64% of mothers with private or other payors started prenatal care in the first trimester in 2023.<sup>4</sup>



# Community Voice Data

## Data Open Houses

Gaps in healthcare access and the need for more providers in Kitsap was singled out.

*“Not being able to get an appointment with my doctor for months when you need to be seen asap.”*

“Lack of primary care physicians. Most are booked out a year and not taking new patients.”

“It should not take 3-6 months to get into a primary care physician.”

“It is extremely difficult to get a primary care physician which is needed to get specialty care. Can nurse practitioners be used as a primary care physician?”



What's being done?



## Healthcare

### Priority workgroups:

- Healthcare System Workgroup
- Kitsap Community Perinatal Clinical Leadership Collaborative



# Healthcare Healthcare Systems Workgroup



**Goal:** Healthcare workforce recruitment and retention

- 37 invited partners representing 23 organizations

**Long-term Outcome:** By the summer of 2028, Kitsap will have increased the number of healthcare professionals across types, raising staffing levels closer to state average.

**Data:** WA Office of Financial Management, local job data from partners, and other sources.

## Current strategy implementation:

Collective Marketing  
Tool

Early Career  
Opportunities

## Future strategy implementation:

Workforce  
Housing

Policy Discussions



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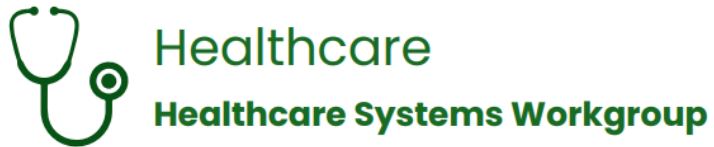
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## Short-term Progress: Collective Marketing

About: Design an online recruitment tool for healthcare professionals and those early in their career.



HOME / KEY INDUSTRIES / HEALTHCARE

### HEALTHCARE - ONE OF KITSAP'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS

Healthcare is one of Kitsap County's most important industries, supporting thousands of jobs while strengthening the health and well-being of the community. A diverse network of hospitals, clinics, behavioral health providers, Tribal health, and community health organizations delivers essential services and serves as a major economic driver.

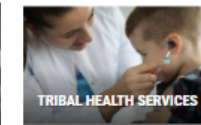
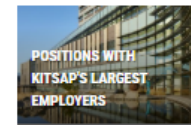
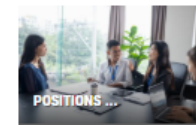
The sector's impact is amplified through strong partnerships among healthcare providers, educators, and public agencies working together to improve health outcomes and build workforce pathways for the future. These collaborations support education, training, career advancement, and innovative approaches to care—creating a healthcare ecosystem that advances both community health and long-term economic vitality in Kitsap County.

#### BUILD YOUR HEALTHCARE CAREER IN KITSAP COUNTY

Kitsap County offers the rare balance many healthcare professionals seek: a place where you can deliver meaningful, community-centered care while enjoying a high quality of life. With a growing and diverse population, Kitsap provides a dynamic clinical environment allowing clinicians to practice at the top of their license and make a visible impact on community health outcomes. Collaboration is part of the culture here, with local organizations, schools, Tribes, and healthcare partners working together to support whole-person care.

For those entering the healthcare workforce, Kitsap County also provides strong healthcare education programs and career-launching support, including healthcare training programs at Olympic College and clear career pathways offered by multiple local employers.

#### FIND OPEN POSITIONS



#### HEALTHCARE EDUCATION AND ADVANCE PLACEMENTS



#### JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The decision to apply to work in our community is a rewarding choice. We take care of our community through a remarkable system of healthcare services, delivering care to meet the unique needs of our community every day. The healthcare sector in Kitsap County includes a wide range of facilities, services and specialty practices. Our healthcare system strives to bridge strengths and reduce barriers in our healthcare system while fostering comprehensive solutions to create a thriving, high-quality, healthcare future.

#### WHAT KITSAP HAS TO OFFER



Healthcare  
Healthcare Systems Workgroup

## Short-term Progress: Early Career Opportunities

**About: Strengthen pathways for early career health professionals to join Kitsap's healthcare delivery network.**

### High Level Baseline Summary : Kitsap-based Healthcare Career Pathways

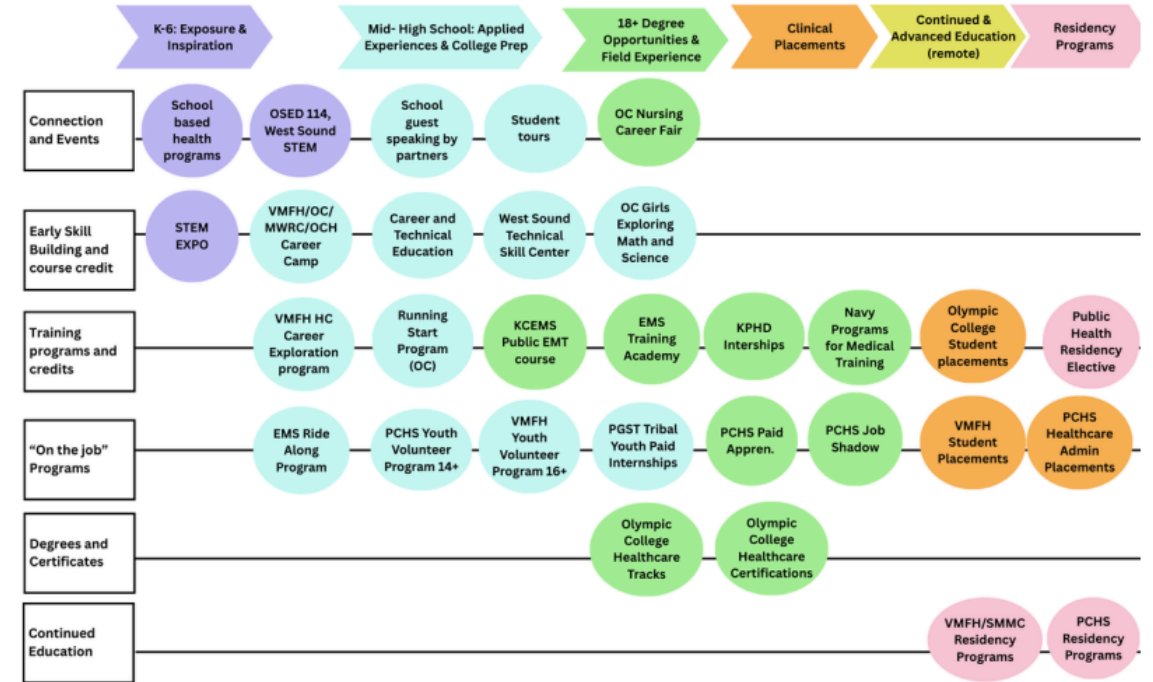


Image 4. Preliminary analysis of existing early career opportunities in Kitsap County



# Healthcare

## Kitsap Community Perinatal Clinical Leadership Collaborative



**Goal:** Healthcare access, specifically to comprehensive maternal and infant healthcare

- 41 invited partners representing 12 organizations

**Long-term Outcome:** Increase access to comprehensive maternal child healthcare inclusive of:

- prenatal care
- delivery care
- post-partum care
- mental health supports
- substance use treatment
- social services; and
- essential resources within the Kitsap and Tribal Nation communities.

### Current strategy implementation:

Quarterly meetings for active problem solving and learning

Collectively identify current system strengths, weaknesses, and barriers

Connect partners/clinics with existing and emerging resources



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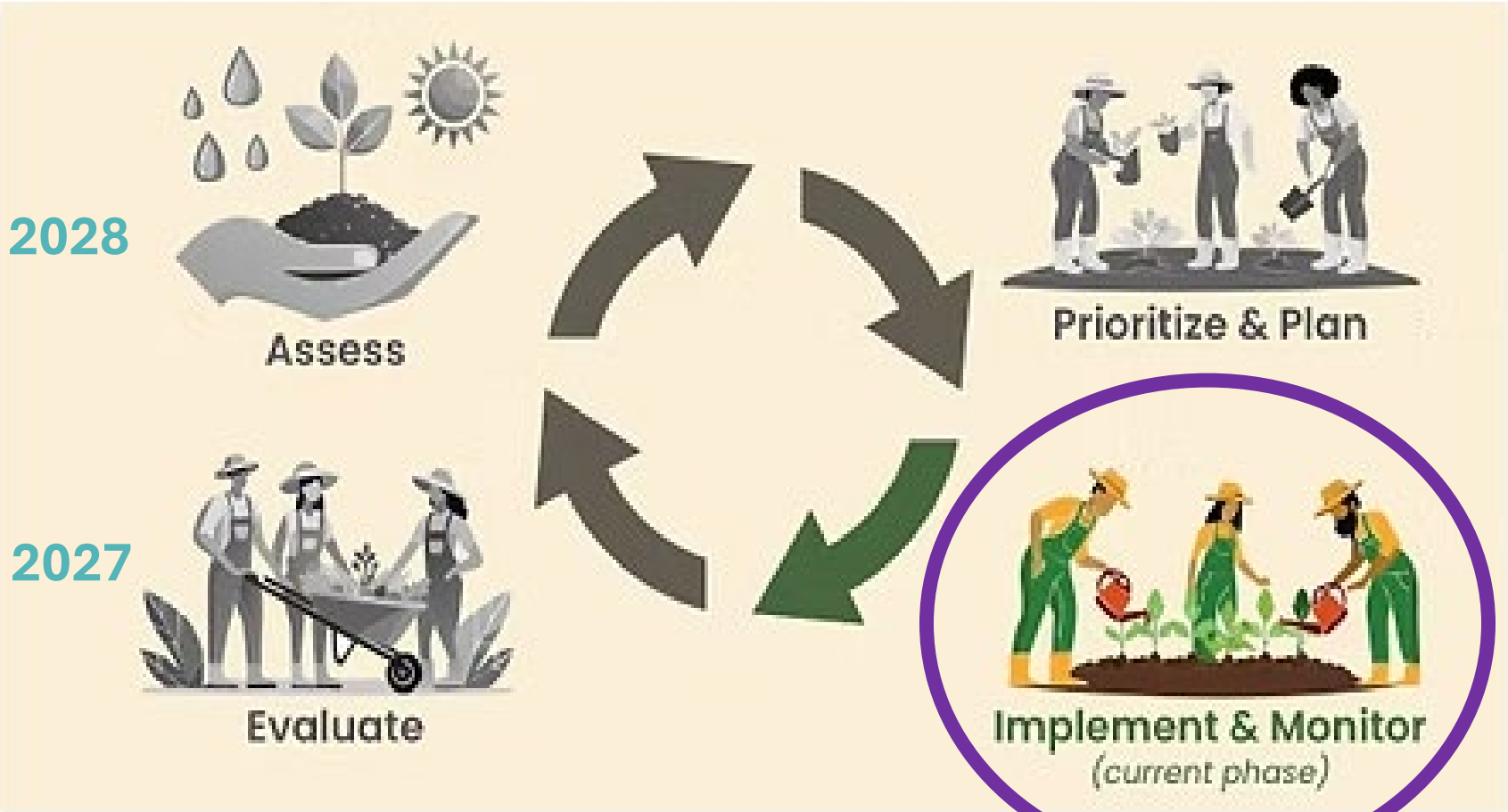
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Workforce  
Housing

Policy Discussions

# Future Plans



# Stay in touch

[Epi@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:Epi@kitsappublichealth.org)

[www.kitsappublichealth.org/kchp](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/kchp)

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Find the up-to-date information on shellfish advisories.

**Kitsap Public Health Board**  
Kitsap Public Health Board to meet Tuesday, June 2

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Water sampling along shorelines in North and South Kitsap starts next week

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