

HEARCAG'S LAND AND ENSLAVED PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We invite you to recognize the written histories of the United States as fractured.

We are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, whose communities lived here for generations and who continue to be systematically erased by policies and practices that remove their histories from this place. We honor their past and continued stewardship of this land.

We acknowledge that the United States was built off the stolen labor of kidnapped African people. Much of what we know of this country today—its culture, economic growth, and development—has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants, who suffered the horrors of the trans-Atlantic human trafficking, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We are indebted to their labor and sacrifices, and we acknowledge the tremors of violence throughout generations that can still be felt today.

We recognize that these difficult histories persist in present-day racial realities and privileges in our nation. We commit to dismantling this racism in all spaces of our work and lives.

Topic	Speaker	Time
Welcome Check-in question: What was your summer highlights? (break out in groups of two)	Ginna Hernandez,	10:35 – 10:45 (10 mins)
Health In Partnerships (HIP)/Power-Building Partnerships for Health (PPH) - Overview of November Forum - Examples of Inside/Outside Strategies (Break out discussion)	All	10:45 – 11:20 (35 mins)
Brown Paper Presentation - Share draft paper and two-pager	Kalika Curry, Matias Valenzuela & Malahat Mazaher	11:20 - 11:55 (35 mins)
Updates: • Open for members' announcements, resources and events	All	11:55 – 12:00 (5 mins)

November Forum

Date: Friday, November 6, 2026

Where: White Center Hub (Savusa Hall)

Purpose: Bring community together around community budgeting.

Forum is part of our work with Health in Partnerships (HiP)/ Power-Building Partnerships for Health cohort*

Tentative Agenda

- Relationship building/check-in activity
- Opening Guest Speaker: Abigail Echohawk, power of the people
- Inside/Outside Strategy workshop
- HEARCAG Data Walk
- Afternoon Guest Speaker: Dr. Danielson, health of the people
- Brown paper presentation

What does the paper recommend?

The Brown Paper is organized around **five key ideas**:

1. Lead with anti-racism

Budget decisions should align with King County's declaration that racism is a public health crisis and should intentionally address longstanding inequities.

2. Center communities with the greatest need

Investments should prioritize communities that have experienced the greatest health inequities and barriers to opportunity, particularly Black, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Latino, immigrant, refugee, and other historically marginalized communities.

3. Shift power and resources to community

Communities should have a meaningful voice in determining how public dollars are spent through approaches such as participatory budgeting and community-led decision making.

4. Create more equitable funding systems

The paper calls for funding processes that are more accessible to grassroots and community-based organizations and that provide stable, long-term support rather than short-term pilot funding.

Centering Community-led Solutions to Create a Virtuous Cycle of Investment in Health

A Vision for Improved Budgeting in King County and Washington State

5. Address root causes

Public investments should focus on the underlying conditions that drive health and wellbeing, including housing, transportation, education, economic stability, and community health.

What problem is the paper trying to solve?

The paper highlights three major concerns: Significant racial and geographic health inequities continue to exist in King County and across Washington State.

Public systems often spend more money responding to crises after they occur than preventing them in the first place. Communities most impacted by inequities often have the least influence over decisions about public investments and policies.

HEARCAG members argue that current approaches create a "vicious cycle" in which poverty, poor health outcomes, and involvement with punitive systems reinforce one another across generations.

What is the central message?

The paper's core message is simple:

If we want healthier communities, we need to invest upstream.

Rather than spending the majority of public resources responding to harm after it occurs, governments should invest in the conditions that help people thrive from the beginning, including:

- Stable housing
- Quality education
- Accessible healthcare
- Mental and behavioral health supports
- Economic opportunity
- Community-driven solutions
- Public health infrastructure

The paper calls this moving from a "vicious cycle" to a "virtuous cycle" of investment and wellbeing.

Spread the word!

Core Messaging

"This paper argues that healthier communities are created when we invest in prevention, community leadership, and the conditions people need to thrive. Rather than waiting to respond to crises, it calls for public funding and policies that address root causes, advance equity, and empower communities to shape the decisions that affect their lives."

Key takeaway

The paper calls for a shift from reactive spending to proactive investment, from systems that manage harm to systems that help communities thrive, and from top-down decision making to community-led solutions.



This paper is ultimately about creating conditions where **everyone can thrive**.

Its recommendations **influence**:

- How public dollars are invested
- Which organizations receive funding
- How communities participate in decision making
- The availability of health, behavioral health, and family support services
- Long-term strategies to reduce inequities across King County and Washington State

Updates & Reminders

Open for members' announcements, resources and events