

# HEALTH EQUITY FOR IMMIGRANTS

Apple Health Expansion represents a critical lifeline for thousands of Washingtonians who are otherwise excluded from health coverage. The program has begun to close long-standing gaps in access to care for immigrant and refugee communities, ensuring that people can seek medical attention without delay, fear, or financial hardship. **These gains must not be reversed.**

At present, Apple Health Expansion provides coverage to about **9,000** residents across Washington. While the need for care extends far beyond this number, maintaining the program's current funding and structure is essential to preserving continuity of care for those already enrolled. **Any reduction in funding or restructuring of the program would create instability, disrupt provider relationships, and place individuals at risk of losing access to essential health services.**

## What is community asking for?

- We ask that the legislature maintain current funding for Apple Health Expansion (AHE) and expand the program to cover everyone who is on the waitlist to provide health care coverage to Washington residents who otherwise do not have access to insurance. Many immigrants in Washington still do not have access to healthcare, even though there is a high level of need.
- We ask that we maintain the Apple Health Expansion program as a Managed Care Organization (MCO) program. The MCO program offers a more comprehensive and quality network of providers, compared to the proposed fee for service model that would weaken care coordination and reduce quality of care for the people this program serves. Fee for service and funding reductions disproportionately harm people with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
- People deserve clear, advance notice if their personal data could be at risk. We ask that the Health Care Authority is directed and authorized to inform current AHE enrollees and prospective enrollees about the potential data sharing risks involved in participating in the current program.

