

Endalkachew has accomplished many great feats during his time as a fellow, especially in his fourth phase. As an advocate for health education, Endalkachew worked hands on with the Starts with One and Most Steer Clear Substance Use campaigns to share the message of prevention with over 500,000 Washingtonians. During his time at DBHR, Endalkachew led a workforce promotion and recruitment initiative for the DBHR Prevention Fellowship Program yielding an application pool increase of 500%. In his placement at Auburn Prevention Coalition, Endalkachew applied for and received a \$10,000 Youth Marijuana Prevention Education Grant to fund a youth prevention club in the City of Auburn. Furthermore, Endalkachew also served as an assistant project manager for the 2020 Synar Coverage Study Tobacco Compliance Survey due to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), showing a dedication to the prevention field on a multitude of levels. This was all made possible through opportunities for training and mentorship available through the Fellowship Program.

Prior to the fellowship Endalkachew had little knowledge of the Washington States mission and approach surrounding substance use prevention and mental health promotion. Through the fellowship program Endalkachew was able to gain knowledge about substance use prevention service delivery, as well as the research foundations that guided the work of DBHR. Professionally, Endalkachew grew to understand the intricacies of working at a state level agency. He also gained knowledge about state level initiatives in behavioral health, workforce development, administration, grants, as well as policy and public relations. Personally, Endalkachew has gained confidence and reassurance of a future career within public service. He has gained the skills to hold tough and courageous conversations, as well as working in a team setting. After the fellowship, Endalkachew plans to study at the University of Washington in hopes of gaining a Master's degree in Social Work and continue to be a champion for children, youth, and families in WA State.