

Washington State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) SPE Consortium

March 16, 2026

Chelsea Henry, SHIP Manager

Caroline Blackburn, SHIP Program Specialist

Executive Office of Government and Community Affairs



What is a SHIP?



The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is a plan that the Department of health leads with cross-sector and community partners to address the needs of all citizens.



The SHIP is a long-term, systematic plan to address issues identified in the State Health Assessment (SHA).



The purpose of the SHIP is to describe how the health department and the community it serves will work together to improve the health of the population.



The SHIP is used to set state-wide public health priorities, and supports the development of the state DOH strategic plan priorities.



Key Phases of a SHIP (ASTHO)



Ongoing- the SHIP Alliance continues from monthly to quarterly

Identifying Partners

Identifying and Engaging Partners and Community in Planning and Implementation.

Engaging

Engage in Visioning and Systems Thinking.

Leveraging

Leverage Data Inputs.

Collaboration

Identifying Focused Issues through Priority Setting.

Communicating

Communicate about SHIP Priorities/Recruitment for next phase

Developing

Develop Objectives, Strategies, and Measures.



December 2025 – July 2026

Implementing and Monitoring

Implementing and Evaluating the success of SHIP.



SHIP Alliance



Current SHIP Alliance Members (as of June 2025)

Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett	Department of Health
Kristin Peterson	Department of Health
Laura Johnson	Department of Health
Katie Eilers	Department of Health
LinhPhung Hyunh	Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
Michelle Davis	State Board of Health
Dylan Dressler	NATIVE Project
Vicki Lowe	American Indian Health Commission
Karla Miller	South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
Jan Marie Ward	Governors Indian Health Advisory Council
Danielle Wren	Spokane Regional Health District
Chantell Reid	Tacoma Pierce Health District
Jenny Ezpeleta	Chelan Douglas Health District
Theresa Adkinson	Grant County Health District
Eva Wong	Public Health Seattle King County
Hannah Aoyagi	WA Department of Ecology
David Puente	Department of Veteran Affairs
Katie Meehan	WA State Department of Commerce
Lindsay Tracy Morgan	WA Department of Social and Health Services
Jennifer Helseth	WA Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Ndudi Chuku	Mission Africa
Anothony Chibueze	Dominion Faith Center
Maria Fernadez	We Are Ella
Maiko Patschke	Front and Centered
Hailey Ballenger	Kaiser Permanente
Stephanie Christensen	Virginia Mason Franciscan Health
Ofer Amram	Washington State University
Janet Baseman	University of Washington
Sheela Sathyanarayana	Seattle Children's Center
Maria Seguenza	WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs



Prioritization Process



Data sources reviewed included:

- [Community Status Assessment](#)
- [Community Context Assessment](#)
- [Community Partner Assessment](#)
- [State Health Assessment | Powered by Box](#)
- [State Health Assessment PPT slides](#)
- [Tribal Priorities Legislative Report](#)
- [Governor's Indian Health Advisory Report](#)
- [Black Well-being Report](#)
- [Well Us Report](#)

State Health Assessment

Additional data sources reviewed by SHIP Alliance

- PHAB listening session notes
- SHIP [Community Listening Sessions](#) (Data analysis from Spokane, Tacoma, Tribal) – this is the summary of results
- SHIP [LHJ Priority Survey](#) (data analysis summary)
- SHIP [Public Feedback Survey](#) (data analysis summary)
- [Link to SHIP data summary ppt](#) (includes all of the above)

SHIP Community Engagement & Community Feedback Tools

SHIP- Prioritization Criteria Definitions



Community Relevance

- Definition of criteria: The degree to which the health issue is grounded in community values, priorities, and wisdom.

Respects Sovereignty

- Definition of criteria: The degree to which the health issue respects tribal autonomy and allows for communities to address issue in ways that are culturally congruent.

Impact

- Definition of criteria: Potential for measurably improving the health outcome to realize positive improvement in community health, including long-term impact (has potential to affect community health and well-being across the lifespan and/or across generations).

Equitable

- Definition of criteria: The degree to which the health issue addresses disproportionate impacts on systemically marginalized communities.

Urgency

- Definition of criteria: Potential for serious risks or negative consequences if health issue is not addressed.

Prioritization Process



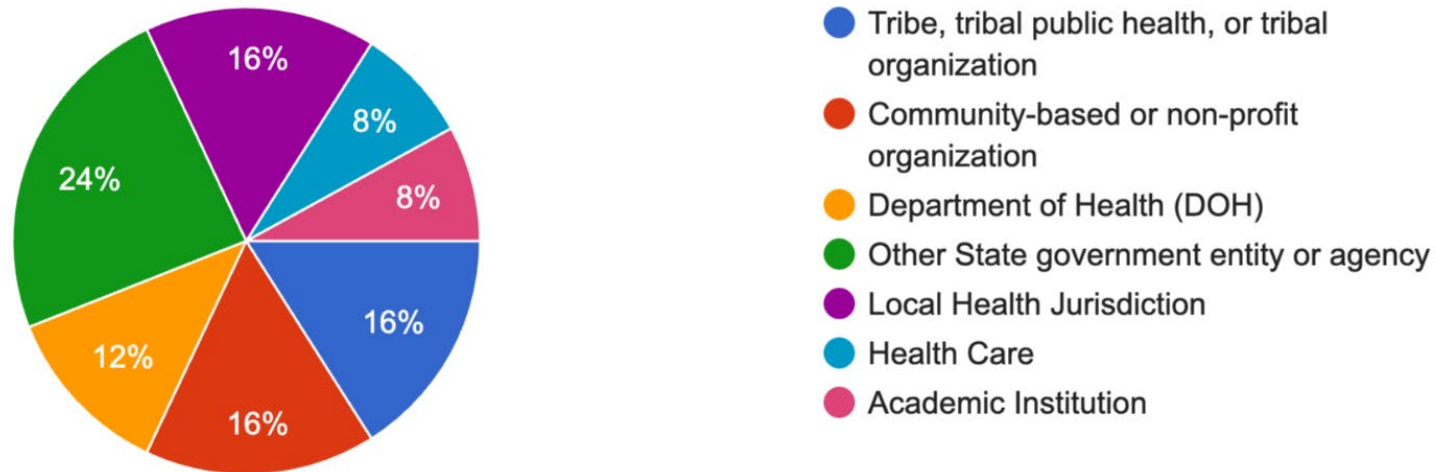
- Due to the variability of measures and indicators used across the assessment, the Data Working Group enumerated the number of mentions of health topics across all data sources.
- In reviewing the health topic mentions, the Data Working Group incorporated discussion of SHIP Alliance prioritization criteria and how they could be represented in the prioritization matrix.
- [Prioritization Matrix Spreadsheet](#)

SHIP Priorities Determined



1. Mental and behavioral health, including substance use
2. Access to care

The SHIP Alliance had **25** members vote on this decision from across the following sectors:



A Comprehensive Collective Action Policy Plan



The goal of convenings:

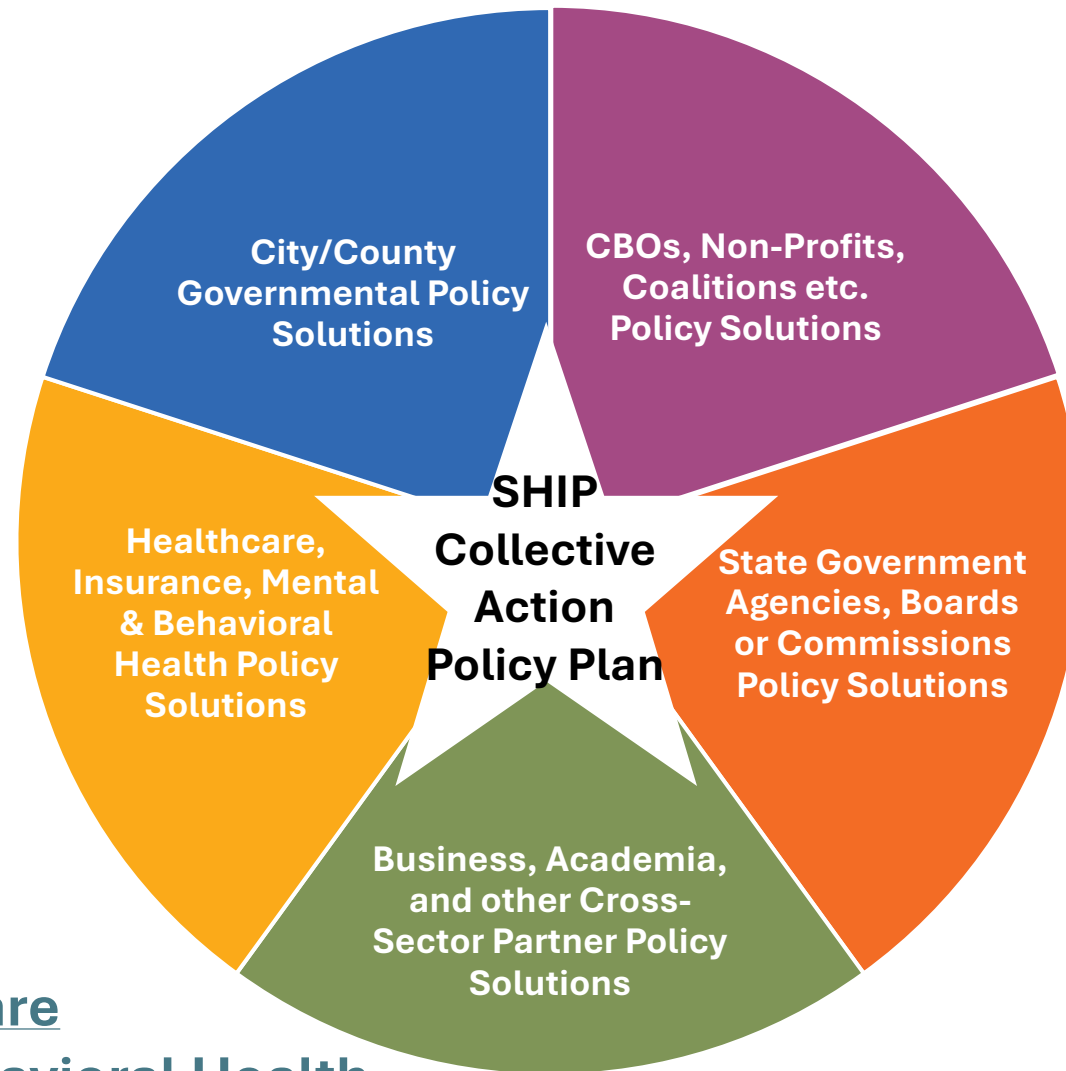
- Elevate and strengthen current work
- Innovate together on new approaches
- Collectively drive towards policy solutions and system changes

**Policies are owned and
championed across
partnerships**

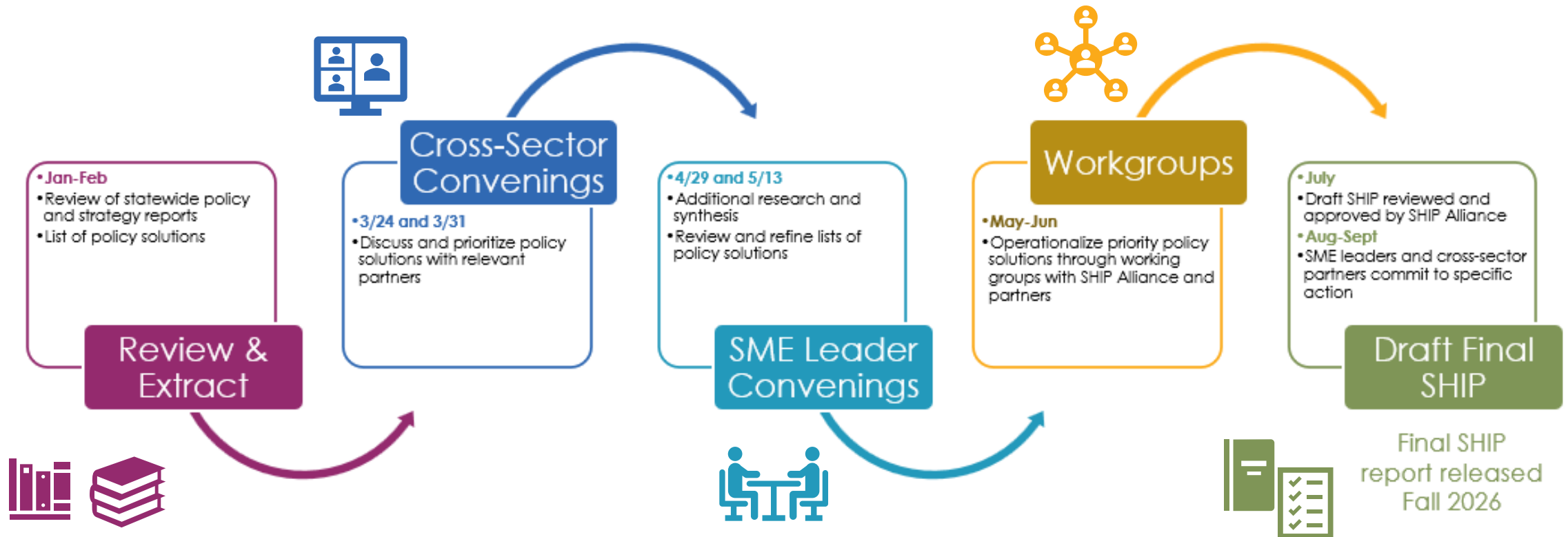
Save the Date

March 24th 1:30-3:30pm Access to Care

March 31st 12:30-2:30pm Mental/Behavioral Health



Next Steps At-A-Glance



Statewide Policy Convenings

SHIP Policy Planning Convening for Access to Care (virtual only)

When: Mar 24, 2026 01:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/access-to-care-policy-planning-state-health-improvement-plan-convening-tickets-1983464520775>

SHIP Policy Planning Convening for Mental and Behavioral Health (virtual only)

When: Mar 31, 2026 12:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/behavioral-health-policy-planning-state-health-improvement-plan-convening-tickets-1983466944023>

Questions?

- Please reach out to Chelsea Henry, chelsea.henry@doh.wa.gov with interest to participate, to share feedback, or with questions.

Thank you!

