

# First Friday Forum

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# 1332 Waiver Approval

## 1332 Waiver Summary

Starting in 2024, currently uninsured state residents — regardless of immigration status — will be able to access Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and Qualified Dental Plans (QDPs), and benefit from Cascade Care Savings.



## 1332 Waiver Materials

- Press Release: [New first-in-kind federal waiver aims to improve access for uninsured Washingtonians | Washington Health Benefit Exchange \(wahbexchange.org\)](#)
- Background handout that includes a county-level breakdown of the 105,000 Washingtonians who will be able to newly access coverage through *Washington Healthplanfinder* under the waiver starting in 2024: [Washington Section 1332 Waiver Application Handout](#)
- CMS Fact Sheet: [WA 1332 Waiver Fact Sheet Final \(cms.gov\)](#)
- Additional waiver related materials have been posted on [the federal 1332 website](#) (toward the bottom of the page under Washington), and the [Exchange 1332 website](#) (being updated further to reflect the approval).

# Immigrant Health Coverage Listening Sessions

To support the 1332 waiver effort, the Exchange partnered with enrollment partners to host listening sessions across the state.



The goals of these sessions were to:





- 🎯 Determine a baseline understanding of awareness and trust in *Washington Healthplanfinder* among immigrant communities (including those without federally recognized status and those in mixed-status households)
- 🎯 Aid the Exchange in learning how to connect with and serve these populations in a culturally responsive manner
- 🎯 Gain insight into how these communities access health care, their understanding of it, how they get information, the likelihood that they would enroll in health insurance, and the barriers to enrolling

# Research Approach

An adaptive community-driven, participatory approach empowered six Lead Organizations (LO's) that have established trusted relationships in these communities to act as research partners by conducting primary research with support from the Exchange



## Session Format

-  6-8 participants, 3-4 sessions per LO (min. 108 participants)
-  Areas covered: Spokane, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities, Yakima, King County, Southwest Washington
-  Conducted in a single common language that participants are most comfortable with
-  Reflective of the diverse countries of origin present in WA\*

LO's provided valuable feedback on the Exchange's **research plan, discussion guide, and data collection methods.**

They conducted **primary research via listening sessions in their communities**, taking on recruiting participants, organizing and facilitating sessions, notetaking, and distributing compensation.

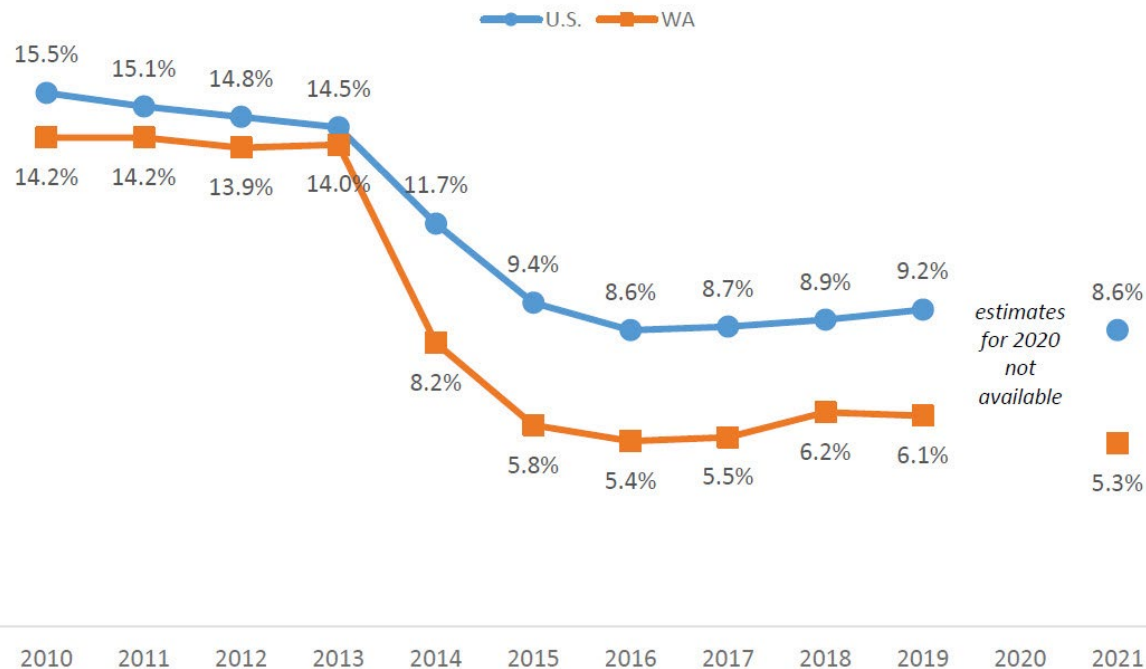
\*Top Countries of Origin (U.S., 2019), Estimates of Undocumented and Eligible to Naturalize Populations, Center for Migration Studies <http://data.cmsny.org/> (in order of size): Mexico, India, China, Guatemala, Philippines, South Korea, El Salvador, Vietnam, Honduras, Haiti, Brazil, Canada, Russia, Pakistan, Thailand, Ethiopia, Peru



# Record Low Uninsured Rate in 2021

The Office of Financial Management Health Care Research Center has released their research brief "[Record low uninsured rate in 2021 amid COVID-19 pandemic.](#)"

Figure 1. Washington and U.S. Uninsured Rates: Total Population, 2010-19 and 2021



The 5.3% uninsured rate in 2021 is the lowest in Washington's history

Washington's uninsured rate is expected to drop again in 2022 due to continued Medicaid growth under the PHE and a lower unemployment rate

ACA's coverage expansion programs and the PHE during the pandemic reduced the health coverage disparities between the low-income groups and the middle-income group

# Winter Training

**February 1 – 28**

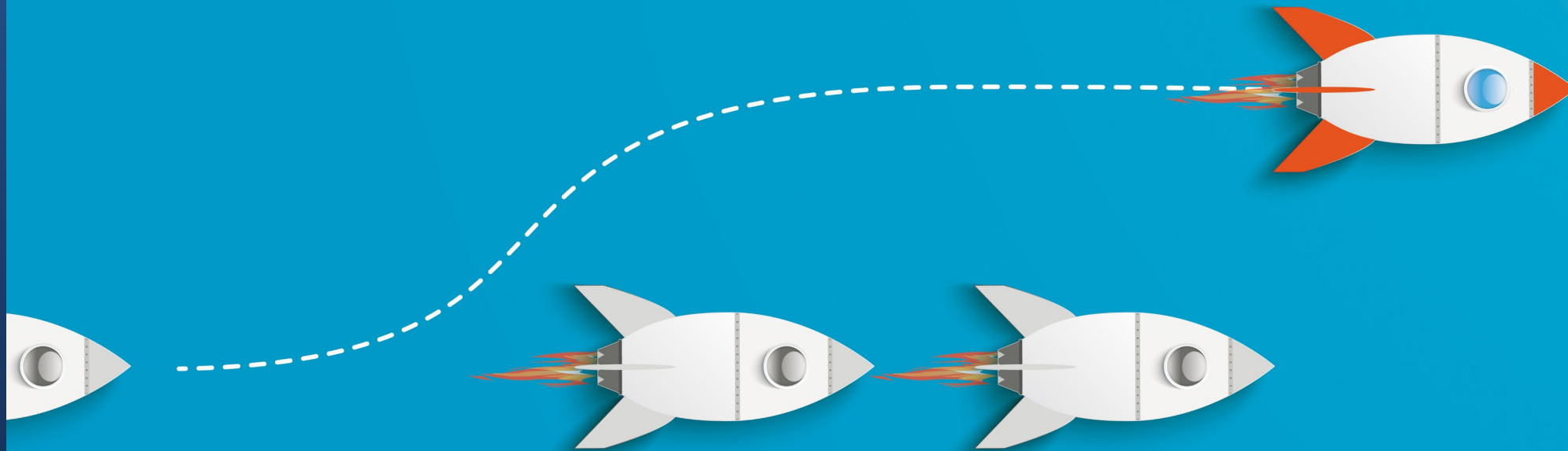
- DEI – How to Be an Ally for Diversity and Inclusion
- Special Enrollment Periods
- Taxes and 1095-As
- Conditional Eligibility Verification
- Assister Responsibilities

Email [navigator.lms@wahbexchange](mailto:navigator.lms@wahbexchange) to report LMS sign in issues.



# On the Horizon...

- Open Enrollment preliminary metrics and full report.
- Special Enrollment Period information will be updated on the [Partner Toolkit page](#).
- Transition to Public Health Emergency unwind efforts.
- Immigrant Health Coverage build, information and training roll-out.



# Questions

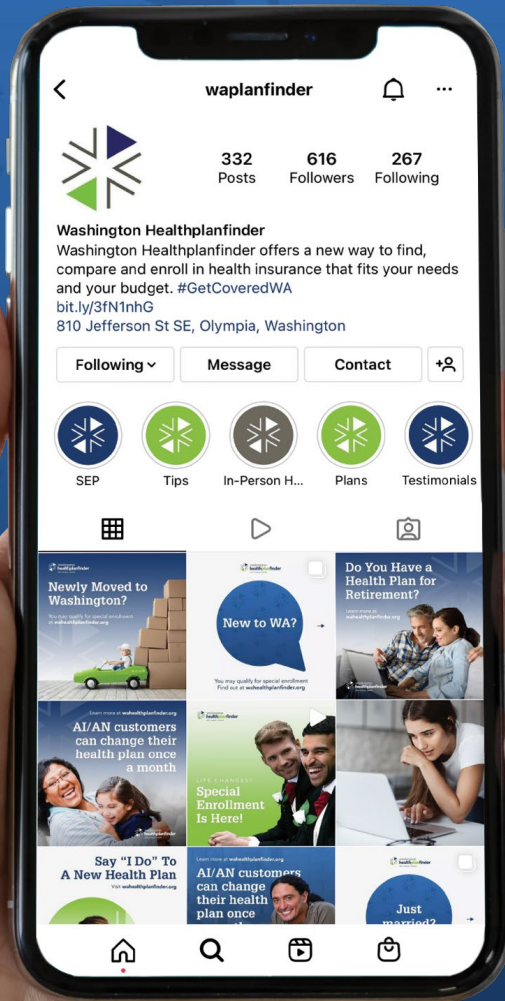
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