

Washington State Needs More Veterinarians

PROBLEM

A severe workforce shortage in our state is restricting the delivery of veterinary medical services. Not enough veterinarians are being trained to care for either our farm or companion animals.

IMPACT

Rural and urban parts of Washington alike are experiencing the shortage. This is a critical issue concerning the safety of our food supply and public health, and for families who cannot get timely care for their companion animals.

SOLUTION

Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine (WSU-CVM) is internationally recognized for its training in veterinary medicine and science, animal health, and well being. With funding from the state Legislature, WSU-CVM will be able to add 20 additional in-state students annually.

FUNDING

WSVMA is asking the state Legislature to fund 20 additional veterinary students annually at WSU-CVM. The cost? \$1.25 million per class, per year. Over four years, the cost would be approximately \$5 million.



\$5M

Total Support Needed to Add 20 In-State Veterinary Students Annually at WSU-CVM

FUNDING BREAKDOWN/YR:

\$ 48,040,760	Total Cost of DVM Program
\$ 90,643	Cost per Student/yr (530 students)
\$ (30,232)	Current In-State Tuition*/yr
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\$ 60,411	Difference Between In-State Tuition and Education Cost/yr

\$ 1,208,220 Total Needed to Add 20 In-State Students/yr

*Current DVM In-State Tuition:
\$27,332 (yrs 1-3) and \$38,934 (yr 4), \$30,232 (avg/yr)

20 NEW Washington In-State DVM Students

The Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's top priority is to secure legislative support for 20 new Washington in-state DVM students: **\$5M appropriation built up over 4 years at ~\$1.25M per year.**

It has been 20 years since the number of seats available at WSU-CVM for our state's students was increased. In that time, Washington state's population has grown from 6.1 million to more than 7.8 million. That means seats for local students at WSU-CVM per 100,000 WA population has gone down from 0.9 to 0.7 - a 25% decrease in the state's veterinary workforce preparation.

The WSVMA request for funding additional Washington State resident students at WSU-CVM becomes even more compelling with the loss of funding provided by Utah students when Utah State establishes a 4-year veterinary college in the fall of 2025. Currently, 30 Utah State students are enrolled at the WSU-CVM for the last two years of study. The loss of these students represents a budget cut to the College of \$3.8 million a year. Importantly, however, it also provides the opportunity to increase enrollment of Washington State resident students.



About WSVMA

Washington State Veterinary Medical Association is a community of individuals who are passionate about veterinary medicine and improving the lives of those it touches. The WSVMA is the only entity in our state that advocates for change that moves both veterinary medicine and animal health forward. The WSVMA represents over 2,600 veterinary professionals in our state.

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