



SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Snohomish County, Washington

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING APRIL 13-17, 2026
AS BLACK WELLNESS WEEK
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

WHEREAS, the tradition of Booker T. Washington's Negro Health Week has historically spotlighted health disparities in the Black community, fostering advocacy and education; and

WHEREAS, holistic well-being, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, and social health, is a priority for all communities; and

WHEREAS, addressing health disparities in Washington State, especially within the Black community, calls for initiatives that are both inclusive and resource-conscious; and

WHEREAS, a community-driven approach, focusing on leveraging existing resources and capacities, is essential for the effective implementation of Black Wellness Week; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans continue to experience inequality and inequity as a result of institutional racism. Snohomish County acknowledges racism is systemic, has historically hurt and continues to fracture the health and well-being of Black Americans through generations; and

WHEREAS, racism has prevented communities of color from achieving their optimal health for centuries and has been acknowledged by the Washington State Board of Health as a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans continue to experience disproportionate barriers to preventive supports and healthcare compared to White Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by health-related threats that have been identified by and in our community such as food insecurity, substance use disorder and overdose, mental health care access, inadequate prenatal care, and adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, while many healthcare and social service providers are aware of disparities, more training and resources are needed to actively screen and address social determinants of health and to provide equitable and culturally relevant care; and

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 Black people live, work, and play in Snohomish County and make significant contributions to our economy, arts and culture, science, education, and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVE SOMERS, Snohomish County Executive, do hereby proclaim April 13-17, 2026, as Black Wellness Week in Snohomish County. I encourage residents, businesses and visitors to promote community-driven health and wellness goals tailored to the needs of the Black community.

SIGNED this 1st day of April 2026.

Dave Somers
County Executive