

## Topic: Funding Options to Fulfill Requests for Data

**Request Date:** February 13, 2017

**Information Requested:** Washington State is struggling to keep up with the demands for data requests. We currently provide data for HEDIS, research projects, and other similar data requests. With limited staff available to conduct this activity we are exploring other routes for funding this work. We are preparing a survey to determine how our heavy IIS users request and utilize data, and whether they are open to the possibility of fees to help fund staff or other resources to improve turnaround time for data requests. As Washington State explores the option of fees, we would like to get information from other states who assess fees for data requests and how your pay structures work.

**Requesting Member:** Belinda Baker (WA)

**Responding Member(s):** Bill Brand (PHII), and Monica Mayer (Merk)

### Results:

**PHII:** Perhaps even more important than what other IIS programs do is what other Washington State agencies/departments do. Many states have moved to fee-based services/user fees as an alternative to taxes. You may even have a statute related to this. Being consistent with broader Washington state policy/law/precedent would likely be your strongest and most defensible position.

**Merck:** As for fees, when I was in Medicaid (KS), we would charge for data requests for agencies (unless it was a sister agency), individuals (like attorneys or students writing papers), and universities (huge data files, with identifier peeled off), etc. We would also charge for data requests by the time needed in the search so more money was charged if the request was urgent or if the request was not already created.

Maybe we could refer Washington State to the State Medicaid Agency to see what they charge for queries on their data base (they may already have an algorithm)?

They would also need to assure that they have a line item to return the funds directly to the immunization program and not the state general fund which is very important.