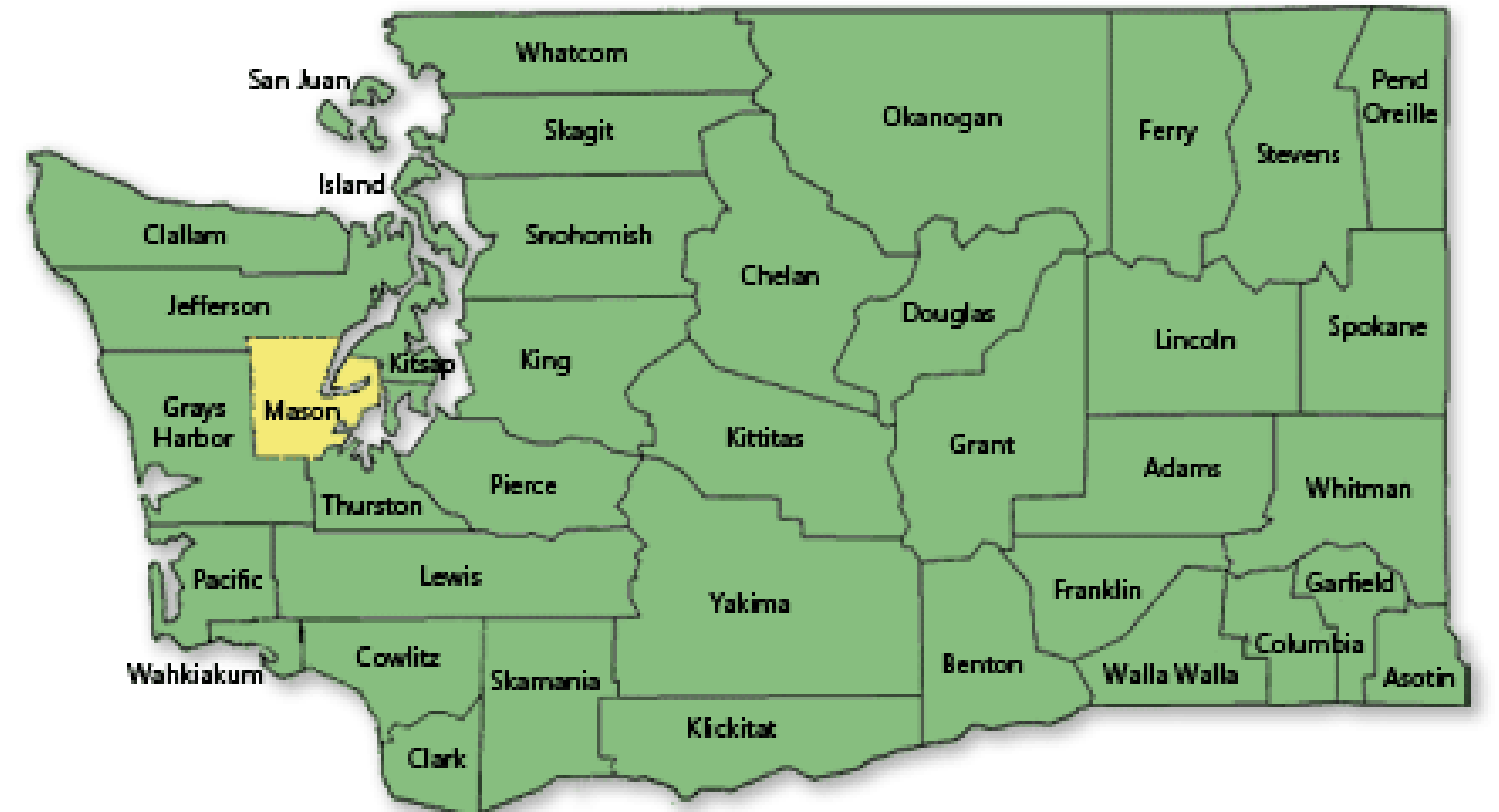




# **EDCMASON** **Supporting Access to Healthcare**

# EDC Background



# EDC Background

- EDC Mason, a private 501c6, formed in 1983 to support economic development goals.
- Serve public and private sector partners by aligning priorities:
  - Infrastructure development
  - Business retention and expansion
  - Workforce and housing development
- We help Mason County compete for opportunity and support regional development to improve quality of life in our community.
- Healthcare is economic development – one provider creates and sustains 13 additional jobs.

# Challenge and Response

- ALICE + poverty population nearing 40%
- Higher than average prime-age unemployment (25-54 y/o) >8%
- Mason County top-3 in Washington for fatal opioid overdoses.
- Many of these individuals have co-occurring behavioral health issues and are justice-involved.
- Accelerated during pandemic – limited healthcare access became even more constrained.
- COVID relief funds presented opportunities for innovation and strategic investment.

# Supporting Projects

- What are we doing to improve access to care in Mason County? We are leading and supporting the region through:
  - **Mason County Crisis Co-Responder Program** – embedded mental health clinicians and peer navigators in local law enforcement; Medicaid reimbursement reduced local cost share by roughly 50%. **WA law allows for billing of private insurance for crisis services – first in the nation.**
  - **Mason County Linkages to Care Transportation Project** – supporting community members access outpatient treatment, detox services, primary care appointments and job and housing support services. Partners with private and non-profit transportation providers for in-county, regional, and out-of-state trips.
  - **Mobile Integrated Health Program** – Community-based service delivery provided by ARNPs, PMHNPs, RNs, and Peer Navigator – centerpiece of our access to care expansion. Independent practice authority for NP makes this work efficiently.

# Thank You!

Thank you for your continued support of rural communities and expanding access to care!

Questions?

Contact:

Kevin Shetty

[Kevin@choosemason.com](mailto:Kevin@choosemason.com)

717-580-4154