

WAC 246-562-020 Authority to sponsor visa waivers. (1) The department may assist communities to recruit and retain physicians, or other health care professionals, as directed in chapter 70.185 RCW, and as provided in 22 C.F.R. Sec. 41.63 by sponsoring up to the number of allowable visa waivers as authorized by the federal government each federal fiscal year if certain conditions are met.

(2) Federal law allows states to sponsor a limited number of Flex waivers.

(3) The department may provide letters of attestation for visa waiver applications sponsored by federal agencies, including the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the Physician National Interest Waiver program.

(4) The department may exercise its discretion to sponsor a J-1 visa waiver request only when:

(a) The applicant provides all of the required information and documentation on the department application and provides all supporting documents as required in this chapter; and

(b) When the applicant meets the criteria contained in this chapter.

(5) In the event an applicant has previously participated in the J-1 visa waiver program, the department may consider the applicant's history of compliance with program rules and regulations.

(6) In any single federal fiscal year, the department may limit the number of sponsorships granted to each location and applicant.

(7) In the event of resource limitations or other considerations, the department may choose to discontinue the program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.185.040. WSR 24-18-072, § 246-562-020, filed 8/29/24, effective 10/1/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.185.040 and P.L. 110-362. WSR 16-17-060, § 246-562-020, filed 8/12/16, effective 10/1/16. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.185 RCW and Public Law 108-441. WSR 06-07-035, § 246-562-020, filed 3/8/06, effective 4/8/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.185 RCW. WSR 03-19-054, § 246-562-020, filed 9/11/03, effective 10/12/03; WSR 00-15-082, § 246-562-020, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00; WSR 98-20-067, § 246-562-020, filed 10/2/98, effective 11/2/98.]