



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

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Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Question: Are jurisdictions required to both apply for the grant and pass the sales & use tax?

Answer: No. Jurisdictions may do either or both. Local law enforcement agencies may apply for the grant, regardless of whether their jurisdiction passes the tax. Similarly, a jurisdiction may pass the sales & use tax without applying for the grant. But sales & use tax eligibility verification requires the authority to meet the grant's requirements.

Sales & Use Tax Questions

Question: What is HB 2015 local sales & use tax option?

Answer: HB 2015 creates the Sales & Use Tax option. By June 30, 2028, the legislative authority of a qualified city or county may authorize, by resolution or ordinance, a .1% councilmanic sales and use tax. To qualify to collect the tax, cities and counties must meet the law enforcement grant criteria. The sales & use tax revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes such as domestic violence services, public defenders, diversion and reentry programs, programs to reduce homelessness and improve behavioral health, community outreach and assistance programs, mental health crisis response, alternative response programs, and community placements for juvenile offenders.

Question: My city or county has approved the sales & use tax. When can we impose the tax?

Answer: A qualified city or county may impose the tax authorized under RCW 82.14.345 only if the city or county meets the requirements to receive a grant under [RCW 43.101.540](#). To establish that the city or county qualifies, it must submit documentation demonstrating that it meets the requirements. The city or the county may, at this time, and conditioned on the city or the county submitting supplemental documentation rectifying any deficiencies, authorize the tax established. See [RCW 82.14.345](#) for a full description.

Question: What happens if voters rejected a similar tax in the last two years?

Answer: A qualified city or county is defined as either a city or county where the voters have not repealed by referendum a tax imposed pursuant to RCW 82.14.340 or rejected a ballot proposition to impose a tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 in the previous 12 months. (HB 2015 (Part II, Section 201, III,b))

Question: Do our model policies need to be identical to the AGO or WSCJTC policies?

Answer: As the assessment tools note in their introductions, an agency's policies need not be identical to the WSCJTC or AG model policies to be consistent with them. However, agency policies must cover the topic each section addresses and not have significant substantive deviations or gaps in setting forth best practices and foundational understanding.

Question: What if my county or city has imposed the sales & use tax but is not yet in compliance with the requirements of HB 2015?

Answer: WSCJTC will work with jurisdictions to come into compliance with requirements. But suppose the WSCJTC, in consultation with the AGO, is unable to verify the submittal within 180 days of the initial submittal. In that case, the State Treasurer must withhold \$100,000 of the tax collected per month until the WSCJTC has verified that the city or county has come into compliance.

Question: What policy and training requirements must be met before applying?

Answer: The policy and training requirements can be found on the WSCJTC website.

Grant Questions

Question: What is the HB 2015 grant program?

Answer: HB 2015 creates a \$100M grant fund. Grant funding awarded to local and tribal law enforcement agencies may only be used for:

- Recruiting, funding, and retaining new law enforcement officers from the community in which the officer will be working.
- Recruiting, funding, and maintaining new county corrections officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response in Washington state. Grants may provide up to 75 percent of the entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of full-time local or tribal law enforcement officers for a maximum of 36 months, with a minimum 25 percent local cash match requirement and a maximum state share of \$125,000 per position. Any additional costs for salaries and benefits above entry-level are the responsibility of the grant recipient agency. Recruiting lateral hires is not a permissible use of funds under the section.
- Funding use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and trauma-informed trainings for officers to remain in compliance with the commission's required trainings.
- Funding broader law enforcement and public safety efforts, including, but not limited to, emergency management planning, environmental hazard mitigations, security personnel, community outreach and assistance programs, alternative response programs, and mental health crisis response.

Reporting Questions

Question: What reporting is required after receiving funding?

Answer: Effective July 21, 2026, and annually thereafter on July 31st, the WSCJTC must report to the fiscal committees of the legislature on:

1. The total count of law enforcement grant applications received by the commission by fiscal year;
2. The total count of law enforcement officer positions applied for by fiscal year;
3. The total count of grant funding requested by fiscal year; and
4. The name of each law enforcement entity that applied for the grant, how many officers they requested funding for, and how much state funding they requested by fiscal year; and 5 The count of grants awarded, to include the name of each law enforcement entity that was an award recipient for the grant, how many officers they received funding for, and how much state funding they were awarded by fiscal year.

This will expire December 31, 2029.

Cities and counties that impose the HB 2015 tax shall, within one calendar year of imposition of the tax and annually thereafter, make a report to either the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) or the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) on how the moneys received from the tax were expended.

By December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, AWC and WSAC shall compile all information received from cities and counties and submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature detailing the purposes for which each city and county expended the tax revenue.

Contract Cities Questions

Question: How do contract cities meet the requirements for the Sales & Use Tax?

Answer: For cities that contract with another jurisdiction for police and/or jail services, their sales & use tax verification relies on their contracted law enforcement agency/agencies submitting documentation of their compliance with the grant criteria, using the online portal. Law enforcement agencies include both police services and jail services. If a city contracts with a jail or correctional facility that is not included in its police contract agency's sales & use tax submittal, the city must separately work with that jurisdiction to submit documentation demonstrating that the jail facility/facility's policies comply with the Keep Washington Working Model Policies. You will find the sales & use tax portal for contract cities [here](#).

Question: Can contract cities apply for the law enforcement grants?

Answer: RCW 43.101.540 provides that only local and tribal law enforcement agencies may be awarded grants. Contract cities can work with their contracted law enforcement

agency/agencies to access grant funding. While the law enforcement agency must make the grant application, those funds may be used for allowable uses, including broader law enforcement and public safety efforts (see RCW 43.101.540(7)(c)).

Question: What if my contracted police or jail services provider declines to submit verification documentation?

Answer: RCW 82.14.345(c) provides that a qualified city or county may impose the sales & use tax only if the city or county meets the requirements to receive a grant under RCW 43.101.540. A city or county that has not issued and implemented policies and practices as required under RCW 43.101.540 (3) and (4) may not impose the tax authorized under this section.