



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPIES TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager; Allyson Griffith, Deputy City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ Youth – February 10, 2026**
DATE: February 5, 2026

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund request of \$30,000 to fund the Oasis Youth Center’s HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Oasis Youth Center seeks to expand access to on-demand, staff-guided HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County. This request will provide funds to administer 300 tests.

Pierce County is considered a high STI-incidence jurisdiction, with rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis exceeding those of many other counties in Washington State and nationally. In 2024, Pierce County reported the second-highest number of cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis (all stages) in the state, with young people ages 15–24 accounting for the majority of Chlamydia cases. Despite this elevated need, existing HIV and STI testing services are often not accessible or culturally appropriate for youth—particularly LGBTQ+ youth and youth in crisis—due to barriers such as transportation, cost, age restrictions, stigma, and lack of affirming providers.

Oasis Youth Center will provide on-demand, staff-guided HIV and STI self-testing within its existing drop-in and support service environment. Youth will be able to access oral HIV tests, rapid fingerstick HIV tests, and STI self-collection kits (including Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis) in a safe, trusted, and affirming setting. Trained Oasis staff will guide participants through test administration and specimen collection, support accurate interpretation of results, and provide immediate linkage to follow-up care, treatment, and supportive services as needed. Additionally, staff with phlebotomy certifications can assist youth with the lancet poke if needed.

This approach reduces common barriers to testing by eliminating the need to travel to external clinics with limited hours, minimizing stigma, and ensuring youth receive supportive guidance throughout the process. The desired impact is increased testing uptake among LGBTQ+ youth, earlier detection of HIV and STIs, timely linkage to treatment, and improved long-term sexual health outcomes for young people in Pierce County.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 30,000

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

Oasis Youth Center shaped this proposal through ongoing, direct engagement with the youth it serves. Feedback gathered through drop-in services, support groups, youth leadership programming, and one-on-one advocacy consistently identified sexual health testing as a critical unmet need. Youth shared that traditional clinic-based services are often inaccessible due to transportation barriers, age restrictions, fear of discrimination, concerns about confidentiality, and discomfort navigating adult-oriented services. Transgender and gender-diverse youth in particular reported challenges finding providers who are knowledgeable, respectful, and affirming.

Oasis also drew on its long-standing partnerships with local public health and community-based organizations, as well as county-level STI surveillance data, to inform the program's design. This combined quantitative data with lived experience to ensure the proposed solution responds to both documented public health trends and the real-world experiences of youth most affected by inequitable health outcomes.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

This legislation will reduce racial and other inequities by expanding access to HIV and STI testing for communities disproportionately impacted by both poor health outcomes and systemic barriers to care. LGBTQ+ youth—particularly youth of color, transgender and nonbinary youth, and youth experiencing housing instability—face higher rates of HIV and STIs while encountering discrimination, stigma, and exclusion within traditional health care systems. By funding on-demand, staff-guided HIV and STI self-testing in a trusted community setting, this legislation removes key structural barriers that contribute to these disparities.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

The program advances racial equity by offering free, accessible, and affirming services, eliminating cost and transportation barriers that disproportionately affect youth of color and low-income youth. Staff-guided self-testing reduces reliance on clinic-based models that often require parental involvement, government-issued identification, or prior medical access—requirements that can exclude undocumented youth, youth in foster care, and youth estranged from family support systems. For transgender and gender-diverse youth, the program provides culturally responsive guidance and minimizes exposure to discriminatory or uninformed medical environments. Enacting this legislation will produce positive equity and inclusion outcomes by increasing early detection of HIV and STIs, reducing untreated infections, and improving linkage to affirming care for underrepresented communities. It strengthens trust between marginalized youth and health systems by embedding services within a youth-centered, LGBTQ+-affirming organization. In doing so, the legislation promotes equitable health outcomes, supports public health goals, and affirms the dignity, safety, and autonomy of young people most affected by existing disparities.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not advance this funding request	Save contingency funds for other Council priorities	No funding for critical STI testing that will improve

		health and wellness in community
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EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Funding will be provided to the Oasis Youth Center to administer 300 HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend passing a resolution to fund the Oasis Youth Center’s HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Council Contingency Funds will be used to provide \$30,000 for this program.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or lfoster@Tacoma.gov.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
Council Member Rumbaugh

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  POS# 7

2.  POS# 8

Contingency Commitments 2026

Resolution Number

Funding Amount

To Study Session February 10, 2026

Oasis Center - HIV and STI Self-Testing for LGBTQ+ Youth

\$30,000.00

Council Contingency Fund request of \$30,000 to fund the Oasis Youth Center's HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County.

Starting Balance

\$259,328.56

Allocated Funding

\$30,000.00

Remaining Balance

\$229,328.56