

RCW 15.76.115 Fair fund—Created—Treasurer's transfer—Purpose.

(1) The fair fund is created in the custody of the state treasury.

(2) All moneys received by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this fund and from RCW 67.16.105 shall be deposited into the fund. Each fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer into the fair fund from the general fund an amount appropriated in the omnibus operating appropriations act equal to:

(a) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

(b) \$2,750,000 in each fiscal year 2022 and 2023;

(c) \$3,500,000 in each fiscal year 2024 and 2025; and

(d) \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year

thereafter.

(e) To support inclusiveness at fair events, a portion of the additional funds provided to fairs as a result of chapter 245, Laws of 2021 must be prioritized to be spent on educational programs and outreach that are reflective of the diversity within a fair's local population.

(3) Expenditures from the fund may be used only for assisting fairs in the manner provided in this chapter. Only the director of agriculture or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the fund. The fund is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures. [2021 c 245 s 2; 2018 c 280 s 3; 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 s 926; 2011 c 103 s 10; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 s 912; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 16 s 1; 1998 c 345 s 2.]

Findings—2021 c 245: "(1) The legislature found in 1961 that it is in the public interest to hold agricultural fairs to train youth, to educate the public about the production of food and fiber, and to promote the welfare of farm people and rural living. The legislature finds that the fair fund was created for the purpose of encouraging agricultural fairs and training rural youth. The legislature finds that despite the original expectations, the fair fund has not increased, and this lack of increased support has made it difficult to maintain youth programs. Research has shown that youth who participate in fairs are more likely to get better grades, attend college, and positively contribute to their families and communities.

(2) The legislature finds that fairs also contribute to economic vitality and cultural heritage by: (a) Providing an opportunity for small businesses to reach a larger customer base; (b) providing agricultural suppliers a platform to showcase new technology; (c) creating numerous seasonal jobs; (d) playing a vital role in fund-raising for nonprofit organizations; and (e) providing a venue for community and cultural events.

(3) The legislature further finds that events held on fairgrounds support both the cultural and economic development of rural communities. The legislature finds that connecting the fair fund to revenue generated on fairgrounds encourages fairs to work with local businesses to increase economic opportunity. Thirty-seven counties have a fair. Benton and Franklin counties share a fair. Mason county currently does not have a fair." [2021 c 245 s 1.]

Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [June 15, 2011], except for section 951

of this act which takes effect June 30, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 s 1802.]

Purpose—2011 c 103: See note following RCW 15.26.120.

Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37: See note following RCW 13.06.050.

Severability—Effective date—Contingent effective date—1998 c 345: See notes following RCW 15.04.090.