

# What is a Public Hospital District?

Hospital districts were first authorized by the Washington State legislature in 1945. Hospital districts are authorized not only to operate hospitals, but also to deliver any service to help people stay healthy—physically, socially, and mentally. There are 56 hospital districts in Washington State, operating 43 hospitals, representing about half of the acute care hospitals in the state. Hospital districts play a vital role in allowing many rural communities to keep healthcare in their own communities. Both public hospital districts and not-for-profit hospitals focus on community service, facility upgrading and subsidized care for persons unable to pay the full costs of service. The vast majority of public hospital districts are located in areas considered to be “rural” in character, emphasizing the importance of public hospital districts in meeting the challenges facing rural healthcare. Public hospital district #1 is Valley Medical Center in Renton. Public hospital district #2 is Evergreen Hospital Medical Center in Kirkland, and public hospital district #4 is Snoqualmie Valley Hospital in Snoqualmie. This district was formed by voters in 1972. Our district is roughly the same size as, and has the same boundaries as, Snoqualmie Valley School District #410.



Rodger McCollum, CEO

Overlake Hospital Medical Center was originally intended to be public hospital district #3, but before their official opening in 1960, a decision was made to make it a private hospital.

Snoqualmie Valley Hospital District Boundaries Map (Public Hospital District #4, King County)

