



The Pierce County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board thanks the Legislature for its continued support for individuals of all ages who experience developmental delays, intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and their families.

Building capacity for inclusive and accessible community-based supports is critical to ensuring that individuals with I/DD have the same opportunities as other citizens to participate in and contribute to their community. ***We recommend the following actions:***

- Implement the recommendations identified in the State Transition Collaborative committee's January 2021 report to improve transition outcomes for students leaving high school. This includes **expanding School-to-Work** statewide, **establishing data sharing** with state agencies, and supporting students and families to **learn about transition services and resources**.
- **Increase accessible and affordable housing options**, including housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, so that DDA clients with and without community residential services can secure housing in their local communities.
- Improve access to Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) services by **eliminating families' out-of-pocket costs**, including co-pays, co-insurance, and deductibles, while protecting agencies' ability to bill private insurance for ESIT services.
- Ensure an **increased provider rate** for DDA community-based services, including Employment and Day Program services, to support provider sustainability and help people to achieve their employment goals.
- **Build in language interpreter services** for all DDA services to ensure equitable access to services and inclusion in the community for all individuals with disabilities.