



# 2021 Public Policy Agenda

## For People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

*The Arc's vision is for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to be valued members of their communities, with the opportunity to realize their full potential and a future that is secure.*

The Arc of Washington State has been advocating for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families since 1936. We work to ensure that the state knows the critical needs of both children and adults with I/DD, and that the necessary funding for those quality services and supports is consistently appropriated by the legislature.

The Arc of Washington State is committed to ensuring that individuals with I/DD and their families have the information they need to have an active voice as legislative policies and budgets are crafted and passed each year. January 2021 will be a work in progress, as the legislature has never had to operate virtually before.

### **The Operating Budget will be the most critical component of the 2021 session!**

The Arc of Washington State has compiled the important components to the 2021-2023 Budget Request from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). There are also critical services used by people with I/DD within other agency budgets. Throughout session, you can find our smiley face Budget Side-by-Side chart on our website at [www.arcwa.org/2021\\_legislative\\_session](http://www.arcwa.org/2021_legislative_session).



### **These Public Policies Supported by:**

- Arc of Washington State
- The Arc of Cowlitz County
- The Arc of Grays Harbor
- The Arc of King County
- The Arc of the Peninsulas
- The Arc of Snohomish County
- The Arc of Southwest WA
- The Arc of Spokane
- The Arc of Tri-Cities
- The Arc of Whatcom County

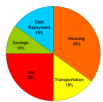
***We are passionate because it's personal!***

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# 2021 Public Policy Agenda for People with I/DD



People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) need statewide Public Policies which allow them to live in their local communities and to be active, participating members of society. These policies include:



## **BUDGET PRIORITIES** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Preserve and protect all currently funded programs and services for people with I/DD—NO CUTS!
- Allocate any revenue raised to include funding for I/DD services.
- Require Caseload Forecasting for services for individuals with I/DD.
- Fund services for ALL eligible DDA clients.



## **FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORTS** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Ensure people with I/DD are not disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Reinstate case managers for the No Paid Services caseload.
- Provide services for all those on the No Paid Services caseload.
- Fund supports for senior families still caring for their adult sons and daughters at home.



## **WAIVER SERVICES** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Increase openings for the Basic Plus, Individual and Family Services (IFS), Core and Children's Intensive In-home Supports (CIIBS) Waivers.
- Support people with I/DD in crisis, reducing out-of-home placements.
- Expand waiver services to include supervision for people in-home with cognitive/behavioral difficulties
- Create a provider category for behavior specialty paid at a higher rate.



## **EDUCATION** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Provide safe in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ban suspensions and expulsions pre-K to grade 3.
- Discontinue use of abusive restraints and isolation rooms.
- Build inclusionary practices by providing technical support for universal design for learning including multitiered systems and supports.
- Remove the cap and completely fund all special education students.



## **EMPLOYMENT/DAY SUPPORTS** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Ensure transition programs in school, use a School-to-Work model.
- Increase the Community Engagement & Inclusion rate.
- Eliminate sub-minimum wages and ensure people have employment/day supports in their local community.



## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Expand safe, affordable housing options for all DDA clients.
- Ensure stable housing for homeless children and adults with I/DD.
- Expand the Housing Trust Fund Developmental Disabilities Set-aside.



## **COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Pay supported living providers at a rate equitable with state providers.
- Fund community residential option for teens with behavior challenges.
- Expand residential options and models.
- Consolidate all Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) and expand community services.



## **GUARDIANSHIP** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Direct the Office of Public Guardianship to utilize less restrictive options.
- Allow supported decision-making as an additional option.
- Establish effective statewide training and monitoring.



## **EQUITY & CIVIL RIGHTS** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Acknowledge and protect people's rights while maintaining as much independence as possible.
- Allow people to live in their community rather than congregate settings by ensuring that adequate funding is provided to do so.
- Provide appropriate supports to clients who are parents with I/DD.
- Provide access in transportation, considering geographic/economic issues.



## **HEALTH CARE** **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available to all providers and clients in the community.
- Add the TEFRA/Katie Beckett waiver to our plan for children with complex or rare medical conditions "Bring Us Home"
- Provide telemedicine options.
- Ensure people are not denied access during the COVID pandemic because of their disability.
- Expand provider capacity for clients using Medicaid.