



# 2022 Legislative Agenda- Rate Increase

The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) is an association comprised of employment and community inclusion service providers in Washington. As a unified voice for providers making up **65% of the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Individual Supported Employment and Community Inclusion caseload**, we are committed to the overall quality of employment outcomes for Washingtonians with Disabilities.

## Providers need a rate increase and a regularly scheduled rate adjustment:

The service rates paid to employment providers bears direct impact on the quality and quantity of supports provided directly to citizens with intellectual disabilities. In this realm, the ability of people with disabilities to obtain and retain jobs in their communities. Jobs help citizens with disabilities to live inclusive and contributory lives. Without support, quality of life may be compromised and, in many cases, de-stabilized. Thus, job supports are critical.

### Ask:

Based on calculations utilizing the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as of 2021, the employment provider rate should have been increased to **\$101.19/HR** for Individual Employment and **\$43.17/HR** for Community Inclusion. **We request this rate adjustment effective 7.1.2022**

### Ask:

Providers **need a regularly scheduled rate adjustment** that is in alignment with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) budgeting process to account for a cost-of-living adjustments that reflect annual increases in business costs and contractual requirement advancements.

### Support:

This statement of need is supported by the Association of County Human Services (ACHS). Counties are the contractual provider and monitor of funding for the Developmental Disabilities Administration for these employment and Community Inclusion services.

### How did we determine these proposed rates?

The CPI for the last 10 years when compiled annually from a base rate of \$75/HR in 2011 place the employment rate in 2021 at \$101.19/HR and the Community Inclusion rate at \$43.17/HR.

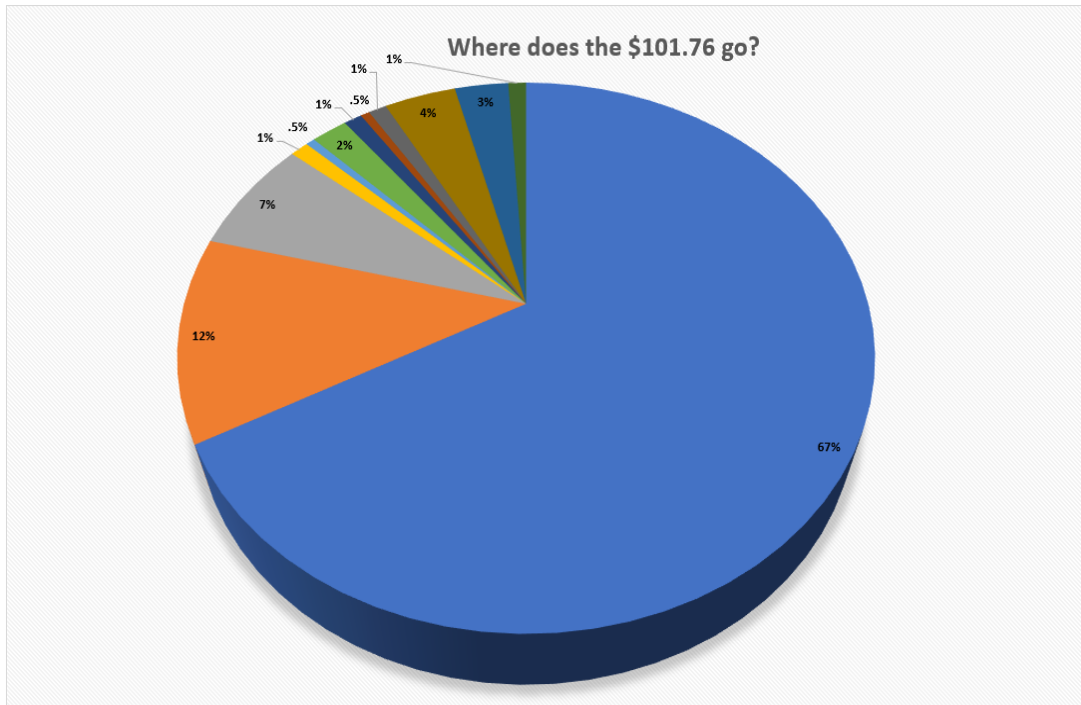
### How Is Current Rate Established?

Rates were set 10 years ago based on \$75/HR from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). DVR has increased rates for their services during the past 10 years with these CPI increases and we have also seen Foundational Community Supports (FCS), a highly comparable service from DSHS, come into existence at \$105/HR, now at \$108 per hour.

### Current Developmental Disability Administration unspent dollars concerns:

Any unspent or unencumbered resources allocated to employment supports are not an accurate reflection of need! This sometimes occurs due to complex systemic issues. No matter the degree of resource underutilization, **service providers remain in a critical need.**

# 2022 Legislative Priority- Rate Increase



Employment Providers are facing a recruitment crisis due to the current provider rate and labor market issues.

- In 2010 the Washington State Minimum Wage was \$8.55/HR, now it is \$14.49/HR
- Median home price in Washington in 2010 was \$246,000, now \$398,000
- Since 2010 general living expenses along with all the business expenses listed above have increased from 30%-150%

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change in prices over time that consumers pay for goods and services and is the most widely used measure of inflation. The 10-year average (CPI) through May 2021 is 2.3%.