

What is the Northstar?



The Northstar Project is a coalition of over 140 people from various organizations, who live at the intersection of disability and many other identities and their families and allies, who have come together to identify the needs of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) for our state legislature. While identifying the needs and barriers to services, the groups has also come up with some solutions that the legislature could implement.

To make things easier, the project was divided into eight global topics. This will make it easier for legislators to determine which committees the various proposals need to go to. The specific topics are:

- ✓ **System Accessibility**: Includes more specific topics such as Eligibility; Clarity and Availability of Information; Simplification of System Navigation; Community Involvement and Co-Design; and Accountability and Oversight. Under each of these headings is a number of proposals for the legislature to consider. (Example: Under Eligibility, Outline of who qualifies for services, distribute in alternative delivery methods including visual/video formats.) The other topics below are also structured this way.
- ✓ **Transportation**: Includes Barriers to Service Issues; Training; Safety; Costs; and Alternatives to Public Transportation.
- ✓ **Civil Rights**: Includes Tension between autonomy for people with disabilities versus caregiver/parent interference; Schools; Forced Poverty; Police Brutality; Voting Rights; Forced Segregation/Least Restrictive Environment; Need Materials Translated/Interpreted; Guardianship; Control Over Money; Abuse; and Accessibility of Legislature.
- ✓ **Housing**: Adequate Physical Housing Options; Appropriate Supports that Meet a Wide Variety of Needs; and Strategic Planning with Positive, Measurable Outcomes.
- ✓ **Healthcare**: Training of Medical Providers; Insurance Coverage; and Barriers to Access.
- ✓ **Caregiving**: Agency Caregivers; Individual Caregivers; Family and Respite Caregivers; and Training for Caregivers.
- ✓ **Day Services**: Transition from High School to Community Living; Adult Employment Services (21+); and Adult Non-employment Services (18+).
- ✓ **Education**: This group is still in the process of defining it's priorities.

For more information:

Adrienne Stuart - Adrienne.stuart@ddc.wa.gov