

DD Advisory Board Priorities

Thank you for your continued support for individuals of all ages who experience developmental delays, intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), and their families. Ensuring capacity for inclusive, responsive 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.

Build Capacity to Provide Comprehensive Services for Individuals Across Their Lifespan

Washington State currently ranks 41st in the nation in total fiscal effort provided towards persons with I/DD (Braddock, 2019). More than 13,400 individuals with I/DD statewide (approximately 2,100 in Pierce County) are enrolled in the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) service system on the No Paid Services Caseload (DDA 2019 Caseload and Cost Report).

Recommended actions:

- **Request** caseload forecasting for individuals with I/DD, to plan for future caseload growth and increase access to paid services.
- **Support** infrastructure improvements to early intervention services for families of children ages birth to three, by aligning funding with authority and supporting the funding allocation methodology outlined in the Department of Children Youth and Families Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers Detailed Funding Model Report.
- **Ensure** all high school transition students leaving school in the 2019-2021 biennium who are eligible for DDA services are added to the Basic Plus Waiver to receive employment and other needed supports.
- **Increase** capacity and expertise across all services, and expand training and technical assistance so that individuals, families, and caregivers facing behavioral health crisis are supported and future crisis may be prevented.

Increase Housing Options and Supports:

A growing number of adults with I/DD, including those living with aging parents, and families with moderate to very low-incomes are facing a crisis in finding affordable, accessible and appropriate housing and supports. An important point is that individuals need residential services and affordable housing.

Recommended actions:

- **Adequately** fund Supported Living to serve new individuals waiting for community residential services, stabilize providers, and address the ongoing employee turnover crisis.
- **Increase** the supply of affordable housing for individuals with I/DD.
- **Require** the development of state regulations for adult family homes specific to serving people with I/DD.