



Community Residential Services for Developmental Disabilities

Working in Harmony with state legislators to find better ways to serve individuals who have a developmental disability in safe and efficient community residential settings.

- Approximately **83,000** people in Washington State have an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD);
 - ✓ A little more than **45,000** of those are clients enrolled with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA);
 - ◆ **40,490** clients live with family or in their own home;
 - ◆ **3,886** clients live in their home and receive supported living services;
 - ◆ **129** clients live in a State Operated Living Alternative (SOLA);
 - ◆ **697** clients live in a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC);
- ⇒ **47** RHC residents are waiting to move from an RHC to the community;

Community residential services, supported living in particular, have been woefully underfunded over the last ten years, while RHCs continue to require additional funding every year, trying to stay in compliance with the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) rules, yet failing.

During the recession, supported living took a huge cut in the rates at which agencies can pay their direct care staff. After repeated requests year after year to provide an increase, the legislature finally provided some relief in 2017, but that just replaced what had been taken during the lean years. They still cannot comply with the new minimum wage laws and also need increases for their indirect care staff.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) - EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY

In Washington State, there are four RHCs; Yakima Valley School is a skilled nursing facility, Rainier School is an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), Fircrest School and Lakeland Village have both.

They are called schools for a reason: they were created as a place for children with I/DD to go learn skills such as getting dressed, sewing, farm chores, etc., then return home. Over the years, parents were encouraged to leave their children at the RHC and move on with their life and now residents, their family members and guardians consider the RHC to be the client's home. However, in recent years, **CMS has re-emphasized the "intermediate" aspect of institutional care.** They have told our state **"it is the responsibility of the RHC not to house and protect people, but rather to be actively preparing them for leaving the RHC and integrating into the community."**

With the unacceptable abuse, neglect and death rates at the RHCs (see **"No Excuses" and "No More Excuses" reports by Disability Rights Washington at www.disabilityrightswa.org/reports**) and the continued need for millions of dollars each year to comply with CMS rules as well as the capital costs for the aging structures, its time for our state to really focus on looking to the future and putting the funding into community services.

Fund Community Residential Services!

Fast Foods, Not PFAS Foods! HB 2658/SB 6396

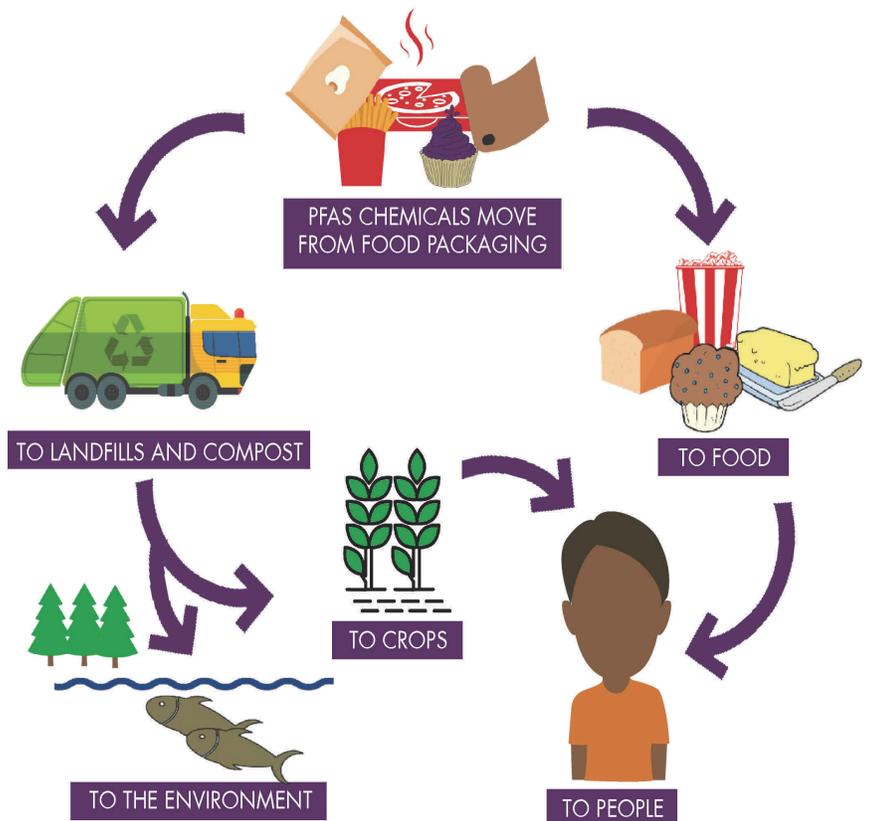


Working in Harmony with state legislators to protect children and adults with developmental disabilities and not expose their often fragile immune systems to chemicals in their food.

The Healthy Food Packaging Act (HB 2658/SB 6396) would ban the use of PFAS chemicals in food packaging. Our legislators should pass this bill this session and protect our health and the environment from these harmful chemicals.

- ☹️ Toxic nonstick chemicals are emerging as a major public health threat.
- ☹️ They can be particularly damaging to people with a compromised immune systems.
- ☹️ These cancer-causing chemicals don't breakdown, which means they stay in our bodies and the environment for as long as 8 years.
- ☹️ Testing of kids found 100% of kids tested had these chemicals in their bodies.
- ☹️ The nonstick chemicals in food packaging and our food are the same industrial chemicals in stain-proof and waterproof coatings on carpets and furniture. Yuk!
- ☹️ We are getting a dose of these chemicals when we eat [microwave popcorn, muffin, fast food sandwich] because the chemicals don't stay in the package.
- ☹️ Chemicals that can make us sick have no business in our food.
- ☹️ And when these packages are composted or thrown away, the chemicals get into the environment, creating a toxic legacy for future generations.

HOW HARMFUL NONSTICK CHEMICALS (PFASs) MOVE FROM FOOD PACKAGING TO PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Fast Foods, Not PFAS Foods! Please Pass HB 2658/SB 6396

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Stop Drinking Water Contamination From PFAS in Fire Fighting Foam! HB 2793/SB 6413

People with Developmental Disabilities *Working in Harmony* with Firefighters And Washington State Legislators

Extremely persistent and cancer-causing chemicals called PFAS chemicals are used in firefighting foam and gear. They are contaminating drinking water and threatening firefighter health. PFASs or nonstick chemicals (per and polyfluoralkyl substances) are used in a variety of products including firefighting foam, and firefighting gear. These chemicals are extremely persistent, staying in our bodies and environment without breaking down.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), some studies in humans with PFAS exposure have shown that certain PFAS may affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children, interfere with the body's natural hormones, affect the immune system and increase the risk of cancer.

In the last few years, health officials across the country, including in Washington state, have discovered drinking water contaminated with PFASs. Communities on Whidbey Island and in cities like Issaquah and Airway Heights have been forced to deal with this drinking water contamination, in some cases having to provide bottled water or spend nearly \$1 million on filtration systems. Experts pinpoint the source of Washington's contamination to the use of certain firefighting foams called "aqueous film forming foam" or AFFF. This foam is intended to put out oil fires, such as car fires or airplane fires. The problem is that the PFAS chemicals in the foam are contaminating drinking water, waterways, soil, and people across the state.

Firefighters face many hazards on the job - one of them shouldn't be unnecessary exposure to PFAS chemicals in the foams or gear they use. Effective and safe methods for putting out oil fires are critical to protecting health and property. But PFAS-containing firefighting foam is creating a toxic legacy across the state. **Policymakers must take action to protect drinking water, people, and the environment.** The use of PFAS-containing foams must be phased out in favor of safer alternatives. Several fluorine-free foams are already on the market, and can be used in a number of applications.

That is why People with Developmental Disabilities are joining the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters and Toxic-Free Future in supporting two bills in the Legislature this session: HB 2793/SB 6413. Specifically, the bills:

- **Ban the sale of firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals beginning 2018 except in situations that require the use of PFAS-containing foams, like at certain airports.**
- **Require manufacturers of PFAS-containing firefighting gear to notify anyone purchasing the gear that the gear contains PFAS chemicals.**

It's possible to protect lives and property from fire while protecting drinking water, firefighters, and the people of this state.

Please Pass HB 2793/SB 6413: Phase out PFAS in Fire Fighting Foam

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Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)

Residential Services in the Community

The budget for developmental disability (DD) services should reflect the shared belief of the vast majority of individuals with developmental disabilities in our state who want to live in the community.

Community residential services are in a crisis. Support staff helps people live in the community!

We need quality community support staff who feel that what they do is not just a job, but a profession. They need to know that their rare set of skills is honored, and they are payed accordingly so that people with disabilities can develop secure, long-term, trusted relationships with their support staff. People depend on these secure trusted relationships.

Please give people the support they deserve.

Build up and Appropriately fund Community Residential.

Do NOT continue to pour money into consistently failing institutions:

Downsize and close the RHCs!