



Public
policy

IDEAS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH IDD

Create an Adult Day Program Waiver Service

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Who is working on this issue?

Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities; Families for Better Lives; The Arc of Washington and chapters

Advocacy areas

Community services and supports

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) often experience social and physical isolation because of the lack of regular, dependable opportunities to engage in their local communities.

As a work-first state, Washington prioritizes supported employment as the primary community-based day service for adults with IDD. However, many adults with IDD are unemployed or under-employed, working on average 10 hours per week.

Non-employment day services offered on DDA waivers (Community Inclusion and Community Engagement) and respite do not fill that gap.

Services are compartmentalized, lacking in providers, have limited hours, and are subject to difficult reporting, and authorization rules. Funding allowances on the IFS and Basic Plus waivers are not adequate to support weekly community connection. This leaves many adults with IDD isolated at home for most of the week, leading to skill regression, and reducing their peer engagement and quality of life .



What is your proposed solution?

- Create a new DDA Adult Day Programs waiver service, with its own funding stream.
 - Fund the upfront development costs, staffing, and implementation of DDA adult day programs in community

settings that reduce isolation and support personal choice, individualized goals, social engagement, habilitation, safety support, and personal care needs.

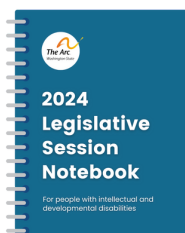
- Support rate parity across DDA day services (Community Inclusion, Community Engagement, Supported Employment, Adult Day Programs, and respite) to build a robust provider network and more equitably distribute funding across services.
- Ensure that adults with IDD have at least 20 hours a week of direct, supported engagement in community activities, in a combination of their choice, to include Adult Day Programs, Supported Employment, Community Inclusion, Community Engagement, and respite.
- Increase respite hours/funds to provide more access to community recreation and activities currently offered under DDA respite contracts.

Why is this a good solution?

DDA currently funds adult day health through respite contracts. However, respite has limited hours and is not available to individuals living in adult family homes or companion homes. Developing innovative day programs – with dedicated funding – will provide adults with IDD options to engage in the community, while ensuring better quality of life through routine, dependable, person-centered programming and support.



What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
For possible fiscal impact, refer to DDA's Adult Day Health/Day Programs study, due to the legislature on December 31, 2023.	<u>HB 2080</u> – Establishing day habilitation services for persons with developmental disabilities.	Rep. Mari Leavitt, 28th LD, mari.leavitt@leg.wa.gov ;



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