



Public  
policy

IDEAS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH IDD

# Eliminate the Community Protection Program

Noah Seidel, [noah@ddombuds.org](mailto:noah@ddombuds.org)

## Who is working on this issue?

Office of the Developmental  
Disabilities Ombuds (DD Ombuds)

## Advocacy areas

Civil rights; community services/supports;  
economic stability; housing

## What is the problem you are trying to solve?

The Community Protection Program (CPP) is the most restrictive community program administered by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA.) The DD Ombuds wrote a report focused on areas of concern:

- People are referred to the program at a young age before they have access to other supports and services.
- Individuals must comply with DDA's CPP recommendations or risk losing access to other services.
- The program has a low graduation rate.
- DDA documents produced at the DD Ombuds' request showed lax adherence to policies that protect the rights of people with disabilities.



## What is your proposed solution?

- Direct DDA to eliminate the Community Protection Program and create specialized services in the existing waivers.

The changes must address the issues identified in the DD Ombuds report "[No Way Out – An Introduction to the Community Protection Program](#)" and ensure that services do not further isolate people from the community.

- DDA should find and develop resources to meet the needs of young people with developmental disabilities identified as having possible “community protection issues,” and take other actions to divert them from the restrictive CPP.
- DDA should propose agency-sponsored legislation, so individuals are not restricted from other DDA services or hours if they choose not to be in CPP.
- DDA should ensure each person has a clear path to graduation from CPP using a person-centered planning process.
- Ensure DDA and their contracted providers meet all federal, state, and policy requirements to guarantee that people are not subjected to unwarranted restrictions of their civil and human rights.
- DDA should collaborate with every person in CPP and create a person-centered service plan to transition them to other waivers with specialized services.

### Why is this a good solution?

DDA participants have the right to person-centered, least restricted service options. Many of the people on the Community Protection waiver have expressed concerns about being isolated, with their rights being restricted for arbitrary reasons. If we eliminate this waiver while ensuring that people can get appropriate services on other waivers, then people can receive the support they need while being integrated in the community.



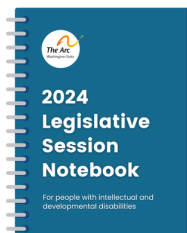
Please see [No Way Out](#), a report that documents the situation, experiences, and recommendations

What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
----------------------------	-------------------------	--

It should be cost neutral

Not yet

No



**2024 Legislative Session Notebook.** Issue papers are provided as a courtesy and reflect the advocacy of named individuals or organizations.