



## Increase Options for Community Housing

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### Who is working on this issue?

Self Advocates in Leadership;  
Allies in Advocacy; People First of Washington;  
The Arc of Washington and chapters

### Advocacy areas

Civil rights; housing;  
community services and supports

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

- Institutionalization should not be the back up option for people who can't find housing.

Everyone deserves a safe and healthy living situation – in the setting of their choice – regardless of disability status.

People are stuck in hospitals and institutional settings because homes in the community with appropriate supports cannot be found.

Others face unstable or unsafe housing or care situations. A state-ordered study found 37,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are housing unstable.

When forced into institutional or large congregate settings, we lose control over basic life decisions. This affects our well-being.

We need affordable, accessible, and sustainable housing in our chosen setting, WITH appropriate services to support health and independence. We need to close the Rainier School.



### What is your proposed solution?

- Build capacity for individualized residential settings, tailored to people's support needs.
- Expand supported living options, adult family homes, and companion homes that give the client authority – not the provider – and allow for a personalized relationship.



## Why is this a good solution?

- It promotes accessible and affordable housing solutions that can be more easily tailored to what an individual needs
- It promotes person-centered services , in the setting they choose.
- It allows the caregiver to spend more time with individual clients so the client and caregiver can develop a more personalized relationship.
- It aligns with the legal purpose for Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs), our large institutions for people with IDD. Most services in RHCs are supposed to be temporary, with participants transitioning back into the community. For that to happen, the level and type of care must be available in community settings.

It is not the size of a facility that classifies whether someone is in an institution. Rather, we need to consider if the caregiver or client holds most of the authority. Whenever caregivers carry most of the authority, advocates need to recognize the institutional nature of the setting.

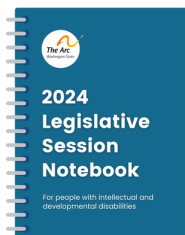
Closing RHCs like the Rainier School is only the first step in ensuring appropriate housing options. Small scale and individualized options should be the norm. Until we realize that smaller is better, people with IDD will face abuse and neglect in larger facilities that make decisions for them.

What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
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Costs vary depending on the support needs of participants and rates paid in different settings. In 2022, average daily costs for support in an RHC ran between \$1,263 and \$1,400. Average daily costs in a supported living program ranged from \$531 to \$934.

Not yet.

Not known



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