



Increase Provider Rates to Stabilize Supported Living

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Who is working on this issue?

Community Residential Services Association;
The Arc of Washington and chapters

Advocacy areas

Community services/supports; Supported
Living community residential services

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living in unsafe situations because the state's community residential rates don't cover needed staffing costs.

Supported Living is our state's primary residential service for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), offering up to 24/7 support so people can live in the home of their choice and participate in the community. But rates are too low, making it difficult to attract and retain staff.



This means many people can't access the community residential service, especially if they require support for complex behavior. It also means providers must absorb higher costs associated with recruiting and training new staff.

Low rates affect:

- **Direct support staff**, who work 1:1 with participants. Last year, turnover in Washington state for direct support staff was 57%. The national average is 44%.
- **Nursing staff**. Rates allow for starting wages 25% below the average RN salary.
- **Transportation**. Rates are 56% below the IRS mileage rate.
- **Administrative expenses**: Rates only cover 68% of these expenses



What is your proposed solution?

- Increase community residential provider rates by 10 percent, effective July 2024. This is the gap noted on a rate study completed by the state.

Why is this a good solution?

Supported Living providers will be able to attract and retain staff, stabilize, and be able to serve more of the thousands of people with IDD who need community residential services.



Providers need rates that cover expenses:

- Providers' ability to provide the level and type of residential service people need depends on the provider's ability to attract and retain direct support staff and cover costs related service coordination, community-access support, and administrative support.

Adults with IDD need both housing AND related services

- Supported Living provides residential and community services that maximize quality of life. Participants live in their own home and receive personalized behavioral, social, and health supports.
- Last year, about 4,000 DDA participants used Supported Living community residential services. We need to ensure the stability of their services.
- In addition, the state estimates another 3,450 adult DDA participants are living with family members over age 60. They will need residential services in the near future, when their family member can no longer provide it. Families need to start housing transition NOW so their loved ones have time to adjust to a new living situation.
- Others who require support for complex behavior need residential services, but cannot access it because staff is not in place. According to the DDA, clients who are being referred to residential services are becoming more complex, requiring at times both more staff and staff with specialized skills. From their agency request: "Out of the more than 500 clients on the referral list in August 2023, a majority received a 'decline to offer services' response from potential providers due to the provider not having the expertise to support the client."

What is the fiscal impact?

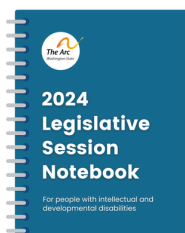
\$42.6 million, according to [DSHS DDA budget request for community residential rates](#)

Is there a bill number?

If funded, a rate increase will be part of the state operating budget

Is there a legislator working on this issue?

Rep. Jamila Taylor, 30th LD, jamila.taylor@leg.wa.gov



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