

Safety Support in the Family Home

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Who is working on this issue?

Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities; The Arc of Washington and chapters; Washington Statewide Parent Coalitions

Advocacy areas

Civil rights, community services and supports, economic stability, housing

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have the right to be safe in their homes and communities. But safety and supervision are not provided when a DDA participant lives in their parent's home.

DDA is directed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to provide the support a person needs to live safely in the residential setting of their choice. And DDA pays for safety and supervision when the participant lives in a supported living setting or adult family home.

DDA does not provide safety support when someone chooses to live in their family home. In a family home, a person's direct support is limited to personal care tasks such as bathing, toileting, meal preparation, and medication, in 15-minute billable increments. Family caregivers are then expected to provide unpaid safety support or be liable for neglect when leaving an individual alone.



What is your proposed solution?

- Direct DDA to assess and provide paid safety support and supervision hours for individuals with IDD who live in their family home.

Why is this a good solution?



- Individuals with IDD living in their family home will be provided the same level of safety and supervision as if they were in a DDA residential setting.
- Individuals will be better supported in the family home and not be forced into out-of-home placement if family members cannot provide 24/7 safety and supervision.
- When a young adult with IDD graduates from school, 50 percent of parents leave the workforce to stay home and provide for their care and safety. By covering paid safety support in the family home, parents and other family members can remain in the workforce and stay economically stable.

DDA waiver services and Community First Choice are the state's community alternatives to institutional care. They are designed to be offered in a variety of settings, including in a individual's own home or apartment, an adult family home with housemates, or with their family. People should not lose their right to safety support by opting to live with family.

What is the fiscal impact?

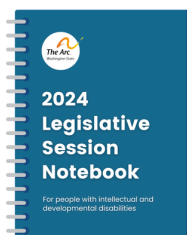
Unknown

Is there a bill number?

Not yet

Is there a legislator working on this issue?

Not known



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