



Public  
policy

IDEAS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH IDD

## Build community residential capacity to support people with complex care needs

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### Who is working on this issue?

The Arc of King County

### Advocacy areas

Civil rights; community services/supports,  
housing

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

- People with disabilities deserve to live and get the services they need in their community. But inadequate resources and care coordination are forcing people into hospitals and out-of-state care, or leaving them in unstable and potentially unsafe situations.

In its [budget request](#), DDA noted: "Clients being referred to residential services are becoming more and more complex, requiring more staff with higher skills to support them.

Out of the more than 500 clients on the referral list in August 2023, a majority have received a 'decline to offer services' response from potential providers due to the provider not having the expertise to support the client."



### What is your proposed solution?

Build a resourced, responsive system of residential care capable of quickly mobilizing to support individuals, their families, and direct support professionals (DSPs). We need greater ability to adjust resources, staffing and training, as needed. Building residential provider capacity would include:

- Paying for medical coordination and advocacy support, at a rate competitive to attract and retain staff with relevant expertise and skills
- Establish a behavior specialty category that pays a higher rate
- Increase funding for nursing support

- Provide funded opportunities for staff to learn about trauma-informed behavior support, such as Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS)
- Pay Supported Living direct support professionals at a rate equitable to DSPs employed by the state
- Provide adequate funds to cover overtime and staffing increases when crisis occurs
- Create and provide access to inter-agency crisis support teams to identify resources and problem solve

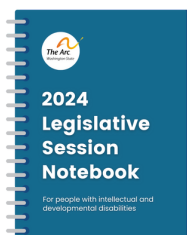
### Why is this a good solution?

Supported Living and state-run community residential services BOTH need appropriate resources to support people with complex health or behavior. BOTH need capacity to respond to the variable needs of participants.



- Supported Living community residential services allow people to live independently or with a roommate or two, in homes of their choice. They get tailored supports that include skill building; medication management; community integration; and advocacy. But the model as resourced and managed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration is not responsive enough when situations escalate, or when care providers are trying to prevent situations from escalating.
- People experience crisis - and they are more likely to do so if they have complex behavior or acute medical needs. Community residential providers need easily accessible resources and training that can be scaled up or down, so they can respond and adapt appropriately to emerging needs.
- We need to acknowledge and plan for the coordination and advocacy required when crisis occurs. It can involve multiple agencies, insurers, and health care providers, takes skill, and requires understanding of and rapport with the individual needing support.

What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
Not known. But average daily costs in state-run community residential programs run \$500 a day less than RHCs	No	Not yet



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