



Public
policy

IDEAS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH IDD

Fully Fund Capacity for Supported Employment and Community Inclusion Services

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Who is working on this issue?

Community Employment Alliance; Pierce County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board; The Arc of Washington and chapters; Association of County Human Services

Advocacy areas

Civil rights, community services/supports, economic stability

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- Low rates mean people cannot access employment and community inclusion services that they are eligible for.

People with disabilities have the right to work and earn a paycheck or otherwise participate in their community, and they deserve supports to be able to do this.

Due to receiving no rate increase since 2011, supported employment agencies have been forced to close their doors or stop taking new clients – leaving the people they support in limbo.

This was only partially addressed last year, with a portion of a recommended rate increase funded. Fully funding this support system will allow people with disabilities to work and participate in their communities and live a full life.



What is your proposed solution?

- Fully fund supported employment and community inclusion services, per the [2022 Employment and Day Rate Study](#) requested by the state legislature.

In addition to billable hours, the revised rates reflect business costs of supported employment and community inclusion vendors, including paid time for staff training, cost of benefits and paid time off, and related administrative costs.

Why is this a good solution?

Having a job can drastically change someone's life, from receiving a paycheck, developing skills and competencies, to being seen as an equal participant in society among their co-workers.



Fully funding this system will prevent high staff turnover and agency closures, which are impacting people's ability to receive these crucial services.

The people who receive employment and inclusion services deserve reliable, well-trained staff to support them to achieve their goals.

From the rate study report:

- In 2019, over 7,600 clients worked. Each dollar invested in employment support equals a 60 cent return into the economy. In 2019, clients earned \$67.6 million, paid taxes and reduced their need for public supports.

Agencies are shouldering unbillable costs, including:

- Client supports that exceed approved hours
- Staff training and education
- Staff benefits, taxes, mileage and insurance
- Client data security
- Operational costs

Statewide, 67% of providers are at capacity, meaning they can't take on new participants.

From DDA's budget request: Since 2019, DDA has lost 34 supported employment providers displacing 233 clients, and 29 community inclusion providers displacing 240 clients.

What is the fiscal impact?

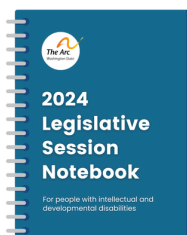
\$23.8 million in state funds, according to DSHS' budget request

Is there a bill number?

This will be part of the operating budget

Is there a legislator working on this issue?

Rep. Clyde Shavers, 10th LD, clyde.shavers@leg.wa.gov; and Rep. Sam Low, 39th LD, sam.low@leg.wa.gov



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