



Allies in Advocacy 2024 Priorities

State Priorities

1. Working on improving Community Services and Community

Residential opportunities: Allies will advocate for structure and policy changes, so there is less need for congregate settings like Residential Habilitation Centers. We will be working with our State DD Network Partners and other community organizations on this priority. We strongly believe that those with I/DD live successfully in the community when they receive adequate care services and get placed in appropriate safe community residential housing environments. We demand our State fully fund adequate services for people by increasing the number of waiver slots, by making sure services are person centered, by increasing the right appropriate housing options, and by making sure we have an adequate number of high-quality providers.

2. Allies provides technical assistance to self-advocate organizations:

We are assisting Self Advocates in Leadership and People First of Washington in their efforts to pass legislation. We believe their continued efforts helps all Washington State Communities support people with I/DD to lead independent lives. We work with these organizations on various committees to strengthen their public policy objectives.

3. Support the Nothing About Us Without Us Bill: Allies is supporting the Nothing About Us Without Us Bill. If passed, the bill would require an adequate number of people with lived experience, including those with I/DD, to sit on Statutory Entities (Boards, Task Forces, Workgroups, and commissions).

4. Educate About and Support Supportive Decision-Making Services: We believe people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should be presumed competent and never have all their rights taken from them. Guardianship is used too often to strip all the rights from an individual. There is another way. When people need assistance in a particular area, they should be able to get help through supportive decision-making services. We believe all state workers and organizations need to understand how these services work and let those who they serve know about them.

5. End of Life Rights: Allies want to make sure when an individual is at the end of their life or passes away their rights should be honored with their end-of-life documents that they put into place. In addition, if additional documents need to be created to protect their rights or their loved one's rights after the person passes they need to be created. Not all documents die with a person.



6. Accountability is key: Allies will fight to create more accountability for state and local administration/organizations/businesses that serve people with disabilities. We believe when people with disabilities are being served and helped those that assist them should always follow up on their promises and be accountable if they don't follow through. In addition, service providers must accommodate and make their services, programs, and meetings accessible for each individual so they can be successful.

7. Increase Leadership and Job opportunities: Allies will help create more leadership and job opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We strongly believe everyone deserves the opportunity to get the job of their choosing and have leadership opportunities that help them to grow to become the person they want to be.

Federal Priorities

- 1. Self-Advocate Network Partner:** In 2018, Allies started working officially with the three federal developmental disability network partners in our state: the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, the state Protection and Advocacy System, and the state University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Our state self-advocates and our partners believe we (people with intellectual and developmental disabilities) should have an equal place at the advocacy table helping improve the civil rights of people with I/DD. Therefore, allies and our state partners are advocating for a change to the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), which would add an official self-advocacy state partner.
- 2. Support Federal Advocacy Efforts:** Allies in Advocacy works with all National I/DD organizations to make sure Washington state self-advocates are informed about federal legislation that improves the lives of people with I/DD and are also supported to advocate on them.

Washington State Allies in Advocacy (Allies) is an activist organization whose mission is to improve the lives of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). All of our board of directors and staff have I/DD. Each of us on the Allies board and staff fights to protect the civil rights of those with I/DD.