



Capacity Building Funds for Supported Employment and Community Inclusion Services

Aaron Dickson, aaron@communityemploymentalliance.org

Requested Amount: \$872,451

Why Capacity Building Funds are Needed:

- **Supporting New Hires:** New staff hours are non-billable, and therefore unfunded, for their first few weeks during initial training. Capacity building funds would help alleviate this financial burden, ensuring that people with IDD have staff that are properly trained and supported.



Serving the Growing Caseload: According to the latest caseload forecasting report, 617 individuals

have been identified as needing employment and/or CI services. Without proper funding, individuals who are entitled to these services may end up waiting for them.

- **Meeting Legal Entitlements:** Individuals with IDD who are on a DDA waiver are entitled to Supported Employment and Community Inclusion services. Capacity building funds will ensure that these individuals are able to receive high quality services in a timely manner.



Key Benefits of Capacity Building Funds:



- **Ensuring Timely Service Delivery:** Without adequate capacity, individuals may face delays in receiving services that they deserve. These funds would allow people to be served more quickly, ensuring individuals can be supported in the community instead of being stuck at home.
- **Supporting the People We Serve:** These funds will directly impact the quality of service delivery, providing the resources necessary to ensure that new staff are well trained.



Backed up By Legislative Reports:

- Caseload Forecast Report: The caseload forecasting report highlights the growing need for services. Due to a lack of investment, people with IDD around the state are waiting at home to receive the supports they need to work and live in their communities.
- Rate Study: The 2022 legislative rate study shows that funding has not kept up with what is needed to maintain services. Additional capacity building funding is needed to help make up for years of underinvestment in community services for people with IDD.



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:

- Lack of investment in rates for these services has caused higher turnover
- Staff turnover rates average ~30%, with some King County agencies reporting turnover of 60%
- Due to new staff's time being unbillable, this service system is unsustainable with high turnover

Why working matters to you? A supported employee:

"Having a job makes it possible for me to be in the community rather than sitting at home doing nothing."



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

From DDA's 2024 budget request: Since 2019, DDA has lost 34 supported employment providers displacing 233 clients, and 29 community inclusion providers displacing 240 clients.



Every dollar invested by the state receives a Federal match!

