

Pierce County **Developmental Disabilities** Advisory Board



2025 Legislative Priorities

The Pierce County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board thanks the Legislature for your continued efforts to expand services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Individuals with I/DD are valued, contributing members of our society and they deserve access to the community-based services needed to live and be engaged in local communities.

Services are underfunded across the Home and Community-Based Services system, and increased rates along with intentional workforce development are essential to address the service gaps across the system. We ask you to make the significant and strategic financial investment needed to begin to move individuals and providers out of crisis.

Education | Transportation | Housing | Employment | Recreation

● Education

Ensure that special education services birth to 21 are adequately funded, and that services are delivered in environments that are typical for children without disabilities.

● Transportation

Ensure that Washington State surpasses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specified federal requirement of a 0.75 mile distance from a fixed bus route for Paratransit services. In addition, provide transportation options for Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) clients who live in communities without public transportation.

● Housing

Address the housing crisis faced by individuals with I/DD by identifying a sustainable and permanent revenue source for DD affordable housing, increasing the Housing Trust Fund – Developmental Disabilities Set-aside, and fully funding residential supports.

● Employment

Protect individuals' opportunity to experience the benefits of employment by addressing the gaps in network adequacy, and ensuring all students with I/DD receive equitable and comprehensive community-based transition services from their school district.

● Recreation

Increase individuals' ability to participate in recreation and community activities by identifying a comprehensive approach to personal care supports and incentivizing the provision of meaningful accommodations at community recreation centers.

The Pierce County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board recognizes the champions in the Washington State Legislature that work to address the significant gaps in community-based services for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community.

For more information, please contact Malissa Adame, Developmental Disabilities Division Manager.

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