



Workforce that Works for Us!

Washington faces a growing shortage of professionals with the experience and training needed to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This shortage spans all systems, including:

- Behavioral health
- Childcare
- Education
- Employment
- Healthcare
- Home care
- Local community programs
- Mental Health
- Residential services
- Respite

The lack of providers can lead to costly crises, with individuals ending up in emergency rooms, jails, or other inappropriate facilities. To prevent these crises, there must be investment in training and planning to ensure a reliable, well-trained, and well-paid workforce that ensures people with I/DD receive proper support and can live within their communities.

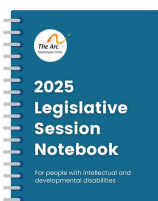
Individuals with I/DD frequently rely on Medicaid for their services. We need to ensure that Medicaid rates are adequate to keep networks robust, make sure that providers have regular cost-of-living increases, and that we don't have service provider deserts.

We Need a Plan to:

Invest in an Adequate Network of Well-Paid Providers and Therapists who are specifically trained to work with individuals with I/DD, especially those with challenging support requirements and that rates reflect the needs of individuals with higher support needs.

Develop and Provide Access to Experienced Providers:

It is essential to develop and provide access to experienced providers who understand and can properly treat individuals with I/DD, especially those who have dual diagnoses. We need to ensure that providers training and experience are adequately compensated.



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