

Budget: *What Can You Do Now?*

Summary:

We understand that this legislative session presents significant challenges, and you are facing tough decisions. We strongly urge you to protect the essential services that individuals with developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families depend on to live, work, and fully participate in their communities. These services are not just support—they are a lifeline. When these services are reduced or eliminated, it often leads to costly crises that could have been avoided. The state has both a moral and legal obligation to protect and provide for these individuals.

People with I/DD and their families require continuous support across their lifespan. This includes assistance with day-to-day activities such as eating, dressing, bathing, accessing medical care, and participating in the community. Whether individuals are in the family home or in residential settings, these vital services are essential to ensuring their well-being.

These services function as a critical safety net, protecting the health and stability of individuals with I/DD and their families. Without this safety net, families are forced to make impossible choices, such as quitting their jobs to care for loved ones, which can result in individuals being placed in emergency rooms, jails, homelessness, or inappropriate settings. This is a crisis that can be prevented by maintaining robust community supports. We must protect this safety net for those who rely on it.

What You Can Do:

- **Support Services:** Prioritize and protect funding for community-based supports and services across the entire lifespan of individuals with I/DD. This will ensure that these critical services are available when they are needed most, preventing crises and promoting community inclusion.
- **Workforce:** Invest in the development and retention of a qualified, dedicated workforce that is equipped to provide high-quality, consistent care and support to individuals with I/DD. A stable workforce ensures that people with I/DD receive the care they deserve.
- **Housing:** Allocate the necessary resources to address the severe shortage of safe, affordable, and accessible housing for individuals with I/DD. Everyone deserves to live with dignity and independence, and securing appropriate housing is essential to achieving this.
- **Education:** Ensure that schools are truly inclusive, accessible, and equitable by investing in Special Education. All children, regardless of ability, should have the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential in an inclusive, supportive learning environment.

Together, let's build a community where every individual, regardless of ability, can thrive, contribute, and live with dignity.

Things to Watch for This Session

[Cuts Cause Crisis](#)

[Protect and Preserve Supported Living](#)

Close Rainier & Yakima Valley RHCs and invest in Community Services [HB 1472 SB 5393](#):

Special Education Funding [E2SSB 5263](#)

[\\$50 million for I/DD Housing](#)