

From: Cathy Murahashi

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:58 AM

To: june.robinson@leg.wa.gov ; derek.stanford@leg.wa.gov ; timm.ormsby@leg.wa.gov ;
mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov ; nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov

Subject: Please Oppose Proposed Developmental Disabilities Community Services Budget Cuts and Protect Washington's Most Vulnerable

Many Voices / One Vision



The Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities

Please Oppose Proposed DDCS Budget Cuts and Protect Washington's Most Vulnerable

Dear Senator Robinson, Senator Stanford, Representative Ormsby, Representative Gregerson, and Representative Macri,

We are writing to urge your immediate **opposition** to the proposed budget cuts referred to as 'underspend' targeting DSHS Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) Supported Employment, Community Inclusion, and Individual & Family Services (IFS) programs. These cuts are not grounded in fiscal reality. If they pass, they function the same as eligibility cuts, since DDCS would be forced to shut the front door to services by reducing the cap on waiver enrollment. **All services** are impacted when the cap on HCBS waiver enrollment is reduced. This includes residential, employment, respite, family, and therapy supports. Parent to Parent programs, Informing Families, and other community-based family support programming would be the first programs on the chopping block.

The Scale of What Is Being Proposed

Both chambers have proposed substantial reductions that far exceed projections:

		Total Reduction	General Fund - State
Senate	Employment/Day Services	\$30 million	\$16.3 million
	IFS	\$2.8 million	\$1.4 million
	Total	\$33 million	\$17.7 million
<hr/>			
House	Employment/Day Services	\$31.4 million	\$16.9 million
	IFS	\$660,000	\$332,000
	Total	\$32 million	\$17.2 million

These are not minor adjustments. Both proposals concentrate the overwhelming majority of cuts — over 95% — in Employment and Day services, targeting the very programs that help people with developmental disabilities work, participate in their communities, and live independently.

OFM recognizes that this was an overestimation of the actual amount of the underspend.

- In FY26, the current estimation is between \$0-\$5 million in total funds that could potentially be targeted — far less than implied;
- In FY27, there will be **zero funds available** for reduction.

These cuts increase the wait that it takes for people to get jobs right out of high school, and have the potential to keep people from enrolling and finding work at all.

As importantly, the ‘cascading effect’ of accounting for this cut is devastating. It impacts ALL waivers and services and CLOSES the waivers to new eligible individuals. It may also have the unintended effect of chopping vital statewide navigation and connection services to families who receive no paid services.

What We Are Asking You to Do:

1. **Oppose any "underspend sweep"** from DSHS DDCS programs — these are not surplus dollars, they are active service funds.

2. **Demand a corrected fiscal analysis** that accounts for current utilization trends and already-implemented cuts before any reductions are considered.
3. **Protect employment and community inclusion programs** that give people with disabilities dignity, purpose, and a genuine contribution to Washington's economy.
4. **Hold the line on Washington's legal and moral commitment** to serving all eligible individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Human Cost: Washington Will Close the Door on Its Most Vulnerable

This is not an abstraction. Here is what these cuts will concretely produce:

- **Families in crisis** will have nowhere to turn due to unavailable waiver slots.
- **Students transitioning out of high school** would be disproportionately impacted by these cuts, which could leave them without the services they need to get jobs, be independent, remain socially engaged, and in good mental health.
- **Tax paying Washingtonians with disabilities** who are currently employed will lose the support that keeps them working.
- **DDCS** will be forced to either halt services before the end of FY26 to avoid an overspend in FY27 OR violate federal waiver entitlement requirements.

Don't make these cuts. Please stand with these individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

[Community Advocacy Coalition](#) members

The Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) is a statewide coalition made up of 59 member organizations representing self-advocates, families, advocacy organizations, and service providers committed to ensuring that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can live safely, participate meaningfully, and thrive in their communities.

Member Organizations

Allies in Advocacy

Association of County Human Services

AtWork!

Benton Franklin Parent Coalition

Bridge of Promise
Clallam Mosaic
Clark County Parent Coalition
Community Employment Alliance
Community Living
Community Residential Services Association
Developmental Disabilities Ombuds
Disability Rights Washington
Kittitas County Parent Coalition
Kittitas County Parent to Parent
Life Enrichment Options
Max Higbee Center
Northwest Center
Olympic Neighbors
Parent to Parent of Clark County
Parent Coalition of Grant & Adams Counties
Parent to Parent Grant and Adam's Counties
Parent to Parent Skamania & Klickitat Counties
Parkview Services
PAVE
PEACE NW
People First of Washington
Pierce County
PROVAIL
Sherwood
SafeinHome

Self-Advocates in Leadership
Skagit County Parent to Parent
Spokane Disability Collaborative
Tavon Learning Center
The Arc of King County
The Arc of Snohomish County
The Arc of Spokane County
The Arc of Washington State
The Arc of Whatcom County
Thurston Mason DD Coalition
Walla Walla Valley Disability Network/Parent to Parent
Washington Multicultural Services Link
Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
Washington State Parent to Parent
Weecare Coalition
Wise
Yakima Valley Parent to Parent

Non-member Organizations

Cares of Washington
Chinook Enterprises
Compass Career Solutions
Entrust Community Services
Holly Ridge Center
Joya Child & Family Development
King County

Mainstay at Seattle Central College

Morningside

Pierce, Jones, & Associates, LLC

Rosalie Murrey Memorial Foundation

Service Alternatives, Inc

SKCAC Industries and Employment Services

Sunrise Services Inc

Supported Solution

Trillium

Vadis

Washington APSE

Washington State Association of Counties

Washington Vocational Services

Work Opportunities