

WE URGE THE 2027 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO:

**PROTECT
BASIC CIVIL
RIGHTS**



- Establish **the right to community-based care** in Washington state law.
- **Ensure no changes to eligibility and no cuts to community-based services and networks** that enable people with IDD to live in their community and prevents involuntary and costly institutionalization.
- Direct DSHS to create person-centered plans to **transition residents of Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs)** to more affordable community-based care services and consolidate RHCs.
- **Close Rainier RHC** to reduce state liability amidst repeated federal investigations and citations.

**ENSURE
ACCESSIBLE
SERVICES**



- Allocate \$50M to the Housing Trust Fund DD set-aside for affordable, accessible, and **inclusive housing for people with IDD**.
- Establish a **tiered-rate model** for services to ensure access for high-needs individuals and prevent crisis.
- Preserve robust networks of peer support by restoring **\$100K to Parent to Parent funding** to reach rural counties equitably.
- Direct counties to make a plan to ensure **wheelchair transport** for patients receiving Emergency Medical Services.

There is no easy way to say it: people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are **being threatened with the worst civil rights rollback** since the ADA became law. As of [this summer](#), there is now no federal backstop that protects people with IDD or mental illness from forced institutionalization.

Washington state has a [history](#) of **leading the way to support our most vulnerable residents**. Now we're launching a 10-year strategic [plan](#) to invest in sustainable home and community-based care in. It's time for us to charge ahead and protect the human right of people with IDD in Washington **to live in our communities**.

For more information, contact Stacy Dym stacy@arcwa.org and Cathy Murahashi cathy@arcwa.org.

Supporting People with IDD Throughout the Arc of their Lifetimes

The Arc of WA has been fighting for 90 years to achieve our vision of inclusive communities for people with IDD. In addition to our 2027 legislative priorities (marked by **), we are relentlessly pursuing many opportunities to improve the lives of our community members in the following issue areas:

ENFORCE EQUALITY & CIVIL RIGHTS



- Establish the right to community-based care in Washington state law**
- Codify and enforce the ADA and Section 504 in Washington state law
- Close Rainier RHC to reduce state liability amidst repeated federal investigations and citations.**
- Expand availability of accessible local and regional transportation systems
- Ensure wheelchair transport for patients receiving Emergency Medical Services**

PROTECT COMMUNITY SERVICES AND NETWORKS ACROSS WASHINGTON



- Protect enrollment, rates, and eligibility qualifications for home and community-based services (HCBS) from cuts.**
- Invest in robust HCBS networks in order to help transition RHC residents to more affordable community-based care and consolidate RHCs.**
- Increase Community Residential rates to prevent turnover and crisis
- Expand availability of meaningful activities to prevent isolation

HOUSING ACROSS COMMUNITIES



- Create affordable, accessible, and inclusive housing through the Housing Trust Fund set-aside for people with IDD**
- Establish a long-term funding source for DD Housing

CREATE A ROBUST, TRAINED WORKFORCE THAT WORKS FOR US



- Invest in an adequate network of well-paid, well-trained providers and therapists
- Establish a tiered-rate model for services to ensure access for high-needs individuals, and prevent crisis**

SUPPORTS & SERVICES THAT CREATE SAFETY NETS



- Prevent crisis by providing comprehensive services and crisis stabilization in every community
- Ensure that families of people with IDD have the supports they need to be financially secure and plan for the care of their loved one in the future
- Establish the Katie Beckett Waiver

EDUCATION WITHOUT HARM



- Expand training for school staff to end isolation and restrict the use of restraint
- Build on and invest in inclusionary practices
- Expand state enforcement of individual civil rights in public schools

The Arc's **mission** is to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.



The Arc of Washington State is the state's **oldest grassroots organization** advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

In 1936, The Arc of Washington State was formed by parents of institutionalized children with IDD who believed their children deserved more – to be **included in their communities** and to pursue fulfillment and happiness just like everyone else. Learn more at arcwa.org.



KEY FACTS ABOUT CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD

- It is now recognized that with intervention, people with developmental disabilities grow and develop and are capable of achieving major developmental milestones.
- [Research](#) shows and [federal guidance](#) emphasizes that community-based care with individualized support (not isolated, institutions) is the best practice and most affordable option for supporting individuals with IDD.
- Most people with IDD live at the federal poverty level throughout their lifetimes, relying on Social Security Income (SSI) as a basic source of income. Due to extremely low income, most people with IDD have limited housing options and are forced to reside in restrictive, group settings that offer fewer choices and heavily rely on federal housing and food subsidies.

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