

## REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

### Community Respite Services for Adults

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6052  
Chapter 415, Laws of 2019  
Section 203 1(h)

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# Transforming Lives

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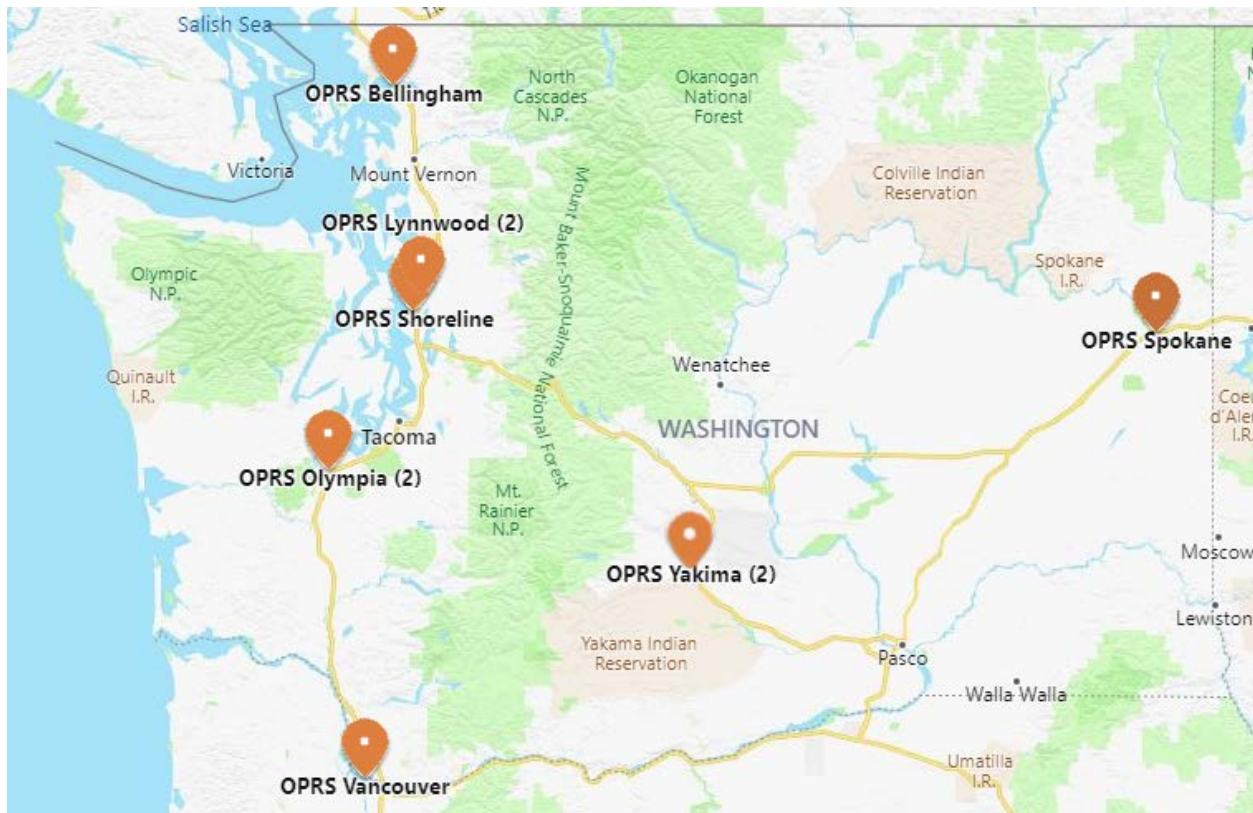
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the 2015-2017 biennial budget, the Washington State legislature passed ESSB 6052 appropriating funds to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) for the development and implementation of eight overnight planned respite beds for adults age 18 and older with developmental disabilities. In the 2017-2019 biennial budget, funds were allocated to General Funds State (GFS) to allow for full utilization of the eight respite beds, as this service does not receive Medicaid match. In the 2019-2021 biennial budget, funds were appropriated for an additional five planned respite beds.

<b>Overnight Planned Respite Services (OPRS) Overview</b>		
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Legislative Action</b>	<b>Cumulative # of beds</b>
2015-2017	Funded 8 OPRS beds	4
2017-2019	Rate increases and GFS allocation	8
2019-2021	Funded 5 additional OPRS beds	10



**BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

**Legislative Charge**

DDA began providing Overnight Planned Respite Services (OPRS) in January 2016 after the Legislature funded eight community-based respite beds for families across the state. OPRS provides access to short-term respite by a DDA contracted and certified provider, and is available to all eligible DDA clients. These services provide families and caregivers with a break

in caregiving and create additional capacity to serve the short-term needs of adults with developmental disabilities. The service is provided in an integrated setting that supports client access to the local community.

ESSB 6052 required DDA to develop a respite utilization report annually and continues in current statute. The report must include:

- 1) The number of individuals who have used community respite in the fiscal year; and
- 2) The location and number of days per month that each bed was occupied.

The majority of DDA clients with developmental disabilities are supported by their families in the community. DDA recognizes the on-going need for families to have access to respite services in their local communities. Some families utilize the Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) for respite care; however, the number of beds to provide respite in those settings is limited and costly.

### CURRENT UTILIZATION AND BARRIERS

The table below illustrates Overnight Planned Respite Services utilization during fiscal year 2019. At the end of FY19, there was a total of nine contracted respite beds.

Overnight Planned Respite Services Utilization Rates					
Location	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Comments
Yakima	67%	91%	53%	66%	
Yakima	55%	89%	33%	49%	
Bellingham	97%	84%	58%	74%	
Shoreline	56%	90%	53%	78%	
Spokane	61%	73%	30%	68%	
Olympia	98%	93%	68%	84%	
Olympia	78%	88%	77%	79%	
Lynnwood	N/A	N/A	35%	64%	Services began 1/15/19
Lynnwood	N/A	N/A	N/A	61%	Service began 4/12/19
Tacoma	40%	31%	N/A	N/A	Contract ended 12/31/18

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Number of client respite stays in fiscal year 2019	87	99	74	87

\*Note: counts above are duplicated

### Barriers to Accessing Overnight Planned Respite Services

- 1) Some families who have accessed respite in an RHC are reluctant to change to a community-based service option.

- 2) Respite beds may be unavailable during the time period requested by the families due to honoring family's choice in respite service dates.
- 3) The current rate structure does not support 2:1 staffing. There are clients whose behavioral or medical support needs require more than one staff to adequately meet their needs.
- 4) Clients with high medical acuity have needs that exceed the community-based respite setting available services without an additional nursing component.
- 5) The current reimbursement rate is established at an amount that funds 24 hour direct-care staff. The rate does not capture administrative or room and board costs associated with providing the service.

### Other Respite Services

The table below shows the number of clients who utilized both planned and emergent respite at the various RHCs. Rainier School RHC did not have capacity to provide respite during FY19.

<b>Utilization of Other Respite Services for FY 2019</b>		
<b>RHC</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Utilization</b>
Fircrest	Shoreline	15 clients
Lakeland Village	Medical Lake	23 clients
Rainier School	Buckley	0 clients
Yakima Valley School	Yakima	96 clients

### SURVEY FEEDBACK RESULTS

#### Survey Information - Overnight Planned Respite

Since the inception of OPRS, fifty-one Overnight Planned Respite surveys have been completed. DDA surveyed clients and their families. The service satisfaction survey consists of three questions using a rating scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest positive score possible. Average scores and comments from clients and their families are included below.

<b>Overnight Planned Respite Survey Results</b>	
<b>Survey Metrics</b>	<b>Results</b>
Rate the way you / your family member were treated	4.85/5
Rate the comfort and cleanliness of the environment	4.78/5
Rate the availability of activities in-home and in the surrounding community	4.53/5

### Client and Family Testimonials

- “This was our adult daughters first ever sleep away and the experience could not have been better for her or for us. So very thankful for this service you provide for families!”
- “Was so nice to have a rest we are grandparents, legal guardians.”
- “Has stayed 4 other times in past 2 years; client reports this was best stay yet. As parent/caregiver, I was extremely impressed by intake process, workers & new admin. Huge & noticeable improvement for safety & welfare of clients.”
- “This was a great all-around experience - our son was happy to see us when we got back, but he wasn't in a "[client] was happy, peaceful and calm when I picked him up. His experience at Holly House was wonderful, thanks to Josh Farmer. He made sure that [client] knew he was attentive. Thank you.”
- “A great big 'THANKS!' for making [client's] birthday breakfast extra special w/ sprinkles, pancakes, and smiles.”
- "I like the staff because they are very welcoming. I like that they had a television in the room. I like it because the bus stop is close by. I like that there are shopping centers nearby."

## **SUMMARY**

Overall, feedback from families that have utilized the OPRS has been positive. Families caring for their adult children continue to express an on-going need for respite and the Developmental Disabilities Administration remains focused on expanding the service in local communities as allocated by the Legislature.