



2021 Public Policy Agenda

For People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

The Arc's vision is for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to be valued members of their communities, with the opportunity to realize their full potential and a future that is secure.

The Arc of Washington State has been advocating for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families since 1936. We work to ensure that the state knows the critical needs of both children and adults with I/DD, and that the necessary funding for those quality services and supports is consistently appropriated by the legislature.

The Arc of Washington State is committed to ensuring that individuals with I/DD and their families have the information they need to have an active voice as legislative policies and budgets are crafted and passed each year. January 2021 will be a work in progress, as the legislature has never had to operate virtually before.

The Operating Budget will be the most critical component of the 2021 session!

The Arc of Washington State has compiled the important components to the 2021-2023 Budget Request from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). There are also critical services used by people with I/DD within other agency budgets.

Throughout session, you can find our smiley face Budget Side-by-Side chart on our website at



These Public Policies Supported by:

- Arc of Washington State
- The Arc of Cowlitz County
- The Arc of Grays Harbor
- The Arc of King County
- The Arc of the Peninsulas
- The Arc of Snohomish County
- The Arc of Southwest WA
- The Arc of Spokane
- The Arc of Tri-Cities
- The Arc of Whatcom County

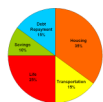
We are passionate because it's personal!

For additional information: (888) 754-8798, ext. 6 or email Diana@arcwa.org

2021 Public Policy Agenda for People with I/DD



People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) need statewide Public Policies which allow them to live in their local communities and to be active, participating members of society. These policies include:



BUDGET PRIORITIES **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Preserve and protect all currently funded programs and services for people with I/DD—NO CUTS!
- Allocate any revenue raised to include funding for I/DD services.
- Require Caseload Forecasting for services for individuals with I/DD.
- Fund services for ALL eligible DDA clients.



FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORTS **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Ensure people with I/DD are not disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Reinstate case managers for the No Paid Services caseload.
- Provide services for all those on the No Paid Services caseload.
- Fund supports for senior families still caring for their adult sons and daughters at home.

Disability Services

WAIVER SERVICES **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Increase openings for the Basic Plus, Individual and Family Services (IFS), Core and Children's Intensive In-home Supports (CIIBS) Waivers.
- Support people with I/DD in crisis, reducing out-of-home placements.
- Expand waiver services to include supervision for people in-home with cognitive/behavioral difficulties
- Create a provider category for behavior specialty paid at a higher rate.



EDUCATION **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Provide safe in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ban suspensions and expulsions pre-K to grade 3.
- Discontinue use of abusive restraints and isolation rooms.
- Build inclusionary practices by providing technical support for universal design for learning including multitiered systems and supports.
- Remove the cap and completely fund all special education students.



EMPLOYMENT/DAY SUPPORTS **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Ensure transition programs in school, use a School-to-Work model.
- Increase the Community Engagement & Inclusion rate.
- Eliminate sub-minimum wages and ensure people have employment/day supports in their local community.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Expand safe, affordable housing options for all DDA clients.
- Ensure stable housing for homeless children and adults with I/DD.
- Expand the Housing Trust Fund Developmental Disabilities Set-aside.



COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Pay supported living providers at a rate equitable with state providers.
- Fund community residential option for teens with behavior challenges.
- Expand residential options and models.
- Consolidate all Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) and expand community services.



GUARDIANSHIP **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Direct the Office of Public Guardianship to utilize less restrictive options.
- Allow supported decision-making as an additional option.
- Establish effective statewide training and monitoring.



EQUITY & CIVIL RIGHTS **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Acknowledge and protect people's rights while maintaining as much independence as possible.
- Allow people to live in their community rather than congregate settings by ensuring that adequate funding is provided to do so.
- Provide appropriate supports to clients who are parents with I/DD.
- Provide access in transportation, considering geographic/economic issues.



HEALTH CARE **WE NEED LEGISLATORS TO:**

- Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available to all providers and clients in the community.
- Add the TEFRA/Katie Beckett waiver to our plan for children with complex or rare medical conditions "Bring Us Home"
- Provide telemedicine options.
- Ensure people are not denied access during the COVID pandemic because of their disability.
- Expand provider capacity for clients using Medicaid.