

Protect Adult Family Homes

DSHS has proposed eligibility changes that would *eliminate all services for about 300 individuals with ID/DD living in an Adult Family Home*. Those people would lose both their home and their services on the same day. DSHS also proposed rate cuts to AFH providers.

THREATS:

- Individuals will become homeless
- Caregivers will leave for other opportunities
- Adult Family Homes will close

Adult Family Homes (AFH) are the *only* housing model available to individuals on the Basic Plus waiver. Most individuals living in AFHs have aging parents who are no longer able to provide 24/7 care for their sons and daughters. If individuals with I/DD lose their eligibility for living in an AFH, they would return to elderly parents *without in-home services*. If their parents are not living, where will they go? ***There are no other options.***

Currently there are 1710 individuals with I/DD living in Adult Family Homes. The vast majority of AFHs serve elderly residents, with only 54 designed to serve adults with I/DD serving 324 individuals. The availability of this housing model has been shrinking over the past 5 years with fewer homes providing services specifically for this population. In King County alone, that number has gone from 21 to 12, representing a decrease of 43% and a loss of 54 beds. Compare that to 12,000 adults with I/DD who need housing.

During the recession, Adult Family Home took significant rate cuts. It has just been in the last couple of years that the rates have recovered. Cutting rates will further decrease the number of AFHs for people with I/DD and cause upheaval for DDA clients who need stability.

Adult Family Homes provide a critical role in housing solutions for adults with moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities. Adult Family Homes are affordable for individuals who are very low income and are cost effective for the state. We must assure that this important option is protected.

REQUESTS

- Don't change the eligibility for waiver services or Community First Choice.
- Don't lower the rate for AFHs

Washington is 41st in the nations for serving people with I/DD. We must do better. There is not enough housing for people with ID/DD. We cannot afford to lose more.

People with ID/DD are counting on you to protect their home and their services.

Vicki Isett, Community Homes
Leo Finnegan, Life Enrichment Options
Craig Frederickson, Frederickson AFH
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