

Washington State must protect and preserve DD funding for critical supports and services.

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) proposed funding cuts and eligibility changes would cause devastating and irreparable harm to people with developmental disabilities and those that support them. The developmental disabilities community was already in crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 14,000¹ eligible people waiting for much needed services, additional proposed cuts will put over 8,000 previously eligible individuals out of service in a time when those services are needed most. Washington currently ranks in the bottom 20% among states in per capita spending on people with developmental disabilities, putting the well-being of people with disabilities in a precarious position without cuts.

Supported Employment increases independence for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and decreases the cost of DSHS support.

Supported Employment (SE) services create lasting positive economic impacts for individuals. Businesses rely on these services to develop and diversify their workforce. People with disabilities rely on these services for economic, physical, and mental health. When people are working, reliance on other expensive public services decreases and contribution to the economy as producers and consumers increases.

- In 2019, Washingtonians with developmental disabilities earned \$61.5M, paid taxes, and reduced their reliance on public supports ².
- June 2020 data shows 32% of DDA's employed clients are essential workers who maintained employment during COVID-19. ³ Supported Employment agencies continue to support IWD's to return to work and help displaced workers find new paths to employment.

Changing ICF/IDD Medicaid eligibility puts jobs at risk and increases demands for other human services

Losing supported employment services will cause people currently relying on job coaching to lose the supports needed to maintain their employment, affecting both the individual and their employer.

A report from the Foundational Community Support program indicates people in SE services find employment at a higher rate, earn more money, and work more hours. Supported Housing helps individuals transition out of homelessness and thereby reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations. (Danielson, Mancuso, & Felver, 2020) ⁴

Reducing DVR Funding hinders our economic recovery and negatively impacts people with ID/DD

\$3.2M cuts impact services to 622 DVR clients. DVR states 6,000 people are currently on their wait list and if the state match is not available, they will lose \$4 in Federal for each \$1 of state funds not available. Our state will incur long term penalties if we do not meet our Maintenance of Effort extending the harmful impacts on services.

Washington State leads the nation in employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities

Employment Data shows that 85 % of people with ID/DD in Washington who are employed, participate in competitive employment; more than four times the national average 19% (UCP 2019 Report). Washington has nationally recognized employment service providers and technical assistance infrastructure ready to help people with disabilities find new jobs for the approximately 70% who were laid off due to COVID.

Workers with disabilities are part of Washington's economic recovery.

Do not cut their opportunity to contribute. See how meaningful employment is to their life!

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=302276360917664>

¹ http://wataap.org/loan_policy_procedure

² ESD, FY2018, DDA FY 2019)

³ DSHS Request ID #202007-PRR-350

⁴ <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/fcs-preliminary-report-one-pager.pdf#page=1>