



No Budget Cuts!

Problem:

The proposed cuts from DDA and DSHS will have a Serious impact on so many people across the board in Washington State! The impact of these cuts will be felt significantly by the individuals with developmental disabilities (I/DD) community! Cutting services and reducing eligibility will affect the lives for so many clients, forever changing our worlds! We ask you please don't make these budget cuts.

There are already over 14,000 people who are not receiving any paid services, despite being eligible, due to a severe under-investment in supporting the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Washington State ranked 41st in the nation for funding community-based services before the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving our already underfunded community ill equipped to survive budget cuts of this magnitude.

The proposed budget describes how 6,500 clients with “lighter care needs” would lose paid services. This gives the impression that people with disabilities do not need these supports to live; that is simply not true. Many of these people rely on these services to survive, keep out of poverty, and avoid dangerous, unstable living situations like homelessness and unnecessary hospitalization.

Also this brings serious concerns about proposed rate reductions to service providers, who are the lifeblood to people with disabilities and their families. Without a stable provider workforce and living wages for direct support professionals, we will continue to see the elimination of services, only compounding the harmful effects of eligibility reductions and further jeopardizing the health and safety of people with disabilities and their families.

Ask:

The cuts in services from the 2008 recession have not been restored. Now that we are having another recession, we can't cut our way to prosperity. In cutting the budget, we are effectively saying that our experiences do not count. This is the opposite message from the ones we are sending to the people who receive services.

Please prioritize people with disabilities and their families, starting with the 2021-2023 biennial budget by not accepting these cuts.

Fiscal note:

While we are asking for no cuts to our services, not cutting now will save money in the long run as we invest in the services that will avoid crises.

For more information please contact:

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