



Supported Living: A System in Crisis

Supported Living: Providing Services During COVID-19

Serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their **home community** is a long-standing top priority for Washington state. Supported Living providers, also known as Community Residential Services, are the primary provider of these services in our state. Over **21 million service hours** are delivered each year for approximately **4,600 clients**.

The health and safety of our clients and staff is our top priority

Supported Living providers have continued to serve our clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting our clients, who have challenging behaviors with the added stress of the pandemic, is extremely difficult now. Our staff must try to keep our clients from being scared, angry, upset, or reactive in the face of potential infection. Social distancing and isolation (when required) is challenging for anyone, but particularly with clients wanting to engage with friends, family members, and housemates but not understanding why they can't.

Supported Living is facing unprecedented costs as a result of COVID-19

2020 COVID-19 Related Expenditures	Average cost per agency*	Per client average*
PPE and Disinfection & Cleaning Supplies	\$29,308	\$494
Other equipment & modifications	\$29,686	\$500
Hazard pay for staff	\$529,531	\$8,920
Other personnel and COVID-19 expenses	\$109,310	\$1,841
Total COVID-19 Expenses	\$697,835	\$11,755

* Based on survey of all Supported Living providers with response data representing 40% of clients served

COVID-19 cases are greatly impacting Supported Living providers, but these protective measures are keeping positivity rates lower than other long-term care settings

	Client COVID-19 positive cases	Client COVID-19 positivity %	Staff COVID-19 Positive cases
Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs)	72	13.0%	1297
Community Residential settings	2181	6.2%	583

Any cuts to Supported Living funding would be devastating to the clients that we serve.

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