



2022 Legislative Agenda

The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) is an association comprised of employment and community inclusion service providers in Washington. As a unified voice for providers making up **65% of the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Individual Supported Employment and Community Inclusion caseload**, we are committed to the overall quality of employment outcomes for Washingtonians with Disabilities.

Rate Increase:

Providers need a rate increase and a regularly scheduled rate adjustment:

The service rates paid to employment providers bears direct impact on the quality and quantity of supports provided directly to citizens with intellectual disabilities. In this realm, the ability of people with disabilities to obtain and retain jobs in their communities. Jobs help citizens with disabilities to live inclusive and contributory lives.

Ask:

Based on calculations utilizing the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as of 2021, the employment provider rate should have been increased to **\$101.19/HR** for Individual Employment and **\$43.17/HR** for Community Inclusion. **We request this rate adjustment effective 7.1.2022.**

Ask:

Providers need a regularly scheduled rate adjustment that is in alignment with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) budgeting process to account for a cost-of-living adjustments that reflect annual increases in business costs and contractual requirement advancements.

Support:

This statement of need is supported by the Association of County Human Services (ACHS). Counties are the contractual provider and monitor of funding for the Developmental Disabilities Administration for these employment and Community Inclusion services.

How did we determine these proposed rates?

The CPI for the last 10 years when compiled annually from a base rate of \$75/HR in 2011 place the employment rate in 2021 at \$101.19/HR and the Community Inclusion rate at \$43.17/HR.

Support the Transition Collaborative Recommendations:

In 2018, the legislature requested state agencies to develop recommendations to improve outcomes for students with developmental disabilities transitioning from school to work/adult life. This report was delivered to the legislature January 2021, and it is time to act.

Funding for Statewide School To Work:

Invest in statewide access to School to Work for students with developmental disabilities. Currently 7 counties have School to Work and DDA reports there are 873 students estimated to exit in 2022.

Regional Interagency Transition Networks:

Support new and existing regional interagency transition networks to establish common guidelines and ensure equitable access and participation while maintaining local context, autonomy, and flexibility. Networks would outline their mission, priorities, agreements, and measurable goals.

Data Share Agreements:

Universal stakeholder consensus exists for a data share system among OSPI, DDA, and DVR. A notification list of potentially eligible students shared from OSPI to DDA and DVR has potential to minimize gaps in services through the transition process.

System Navigation:

Streamline collaboration, information, and navigation support to increase connectivity to needed services after school.



2022 Legislative Agenda- Rate Increase

The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) is an association comprised of employment and community inclusion service providers in Washington. As a unified voice for providers making up **65% of the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Individual Supported Employment and Community Inclusion caseload**, we are committed to the overall quality of employment outcomes for Washingtonians with Disabilities.

Providers need a rate increase and a regularly scheduled rate adjustment:

The service rates paid to employment providers bears direct impact on the quality and quantity of supports provided directly to citizens with intellectual disabilities. In this realm, the ability of people with disabilities to obtain and retain jobs in their communities. Jobs help citizens with disabilities to live inclusive and contributory lives. Without support, quality of life may be compromised and, in many cases, de-stabilized. Thus, job supports are critical.

Ask:

Based on calculations utilizing the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as of 2021, the employment provider rate should have been increased to **\$101.19/HR** for Individual Employment and **\$43.17/HR** for Community Inclusion. **We request this rate adjustment effective 7.1.2022**

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This statement of need is supported by the Association of County Human Services (ACHS). Counties are the contractual provider and monitor of funding for the Developmental Disabilities Administration for these employment and Community Inclusion services.

How did we determine these proposed rates?

The CPI for the last 10 years when compiled annually from a base rate of \$75/HR in 2011 place the employment rate in 2021 at \$101.19/HR and the Community Inclusion rate at \$43.17/HR.

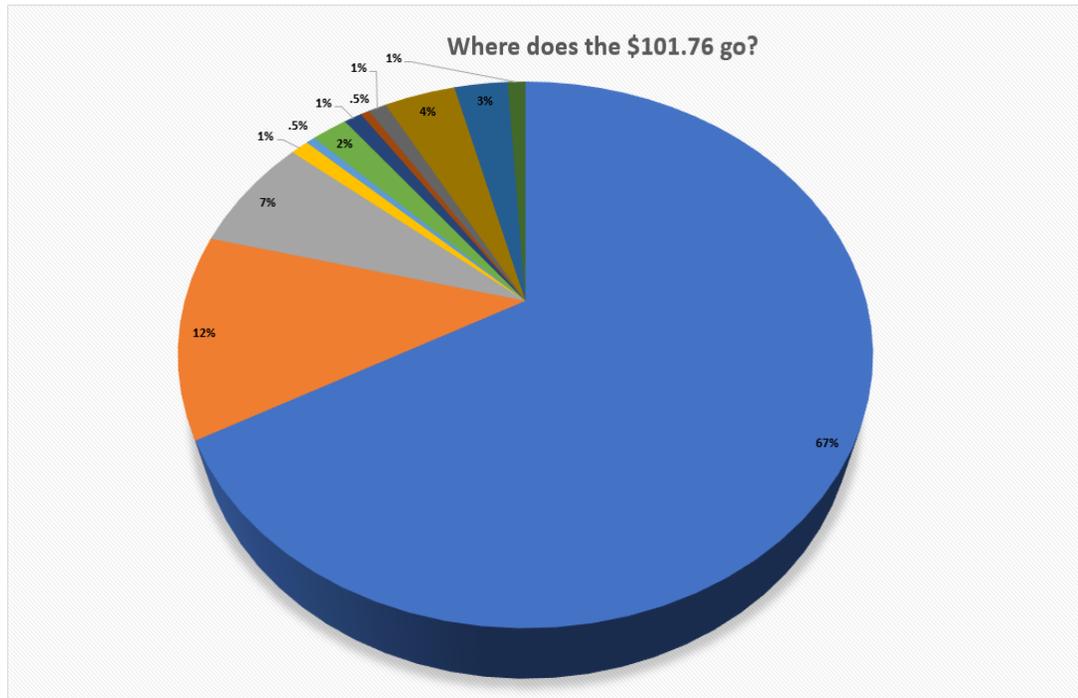
How Is Current Rate Established?

Rates were set 10 years ago based on \$75/HR from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). DVR has increased rates for their services during the past 10 years with these CPI increases and we have also seen Foundational Community Supports (FCS), a highly comparable service from DSHS, come into existence at \$105/HR, now at \$108 per hour.

Current Developmental Disability Administration unspent dollars concerns:

Any unspent or unencumbered resources allocated to employment supports are not an accurate reflection of need! This sometimes occurs due to complex systemic issues. No matter the degree of resource underutilization, **service providers remain in a critical need.**

2022 Legislative Priority- Rate Increase



Employment Providers are facing a recruitment crisis due to the current provider rate and labor market issues.

- In 2010 the Washington State Minimum Wage was \$8.55/HR, now it is \$14.49/HR
- Median home price in Washington in 2010 was \$246,000, now \$398,000
- Since 2010 general living expenses along with all the business expenses listed above have increased from 30%-150%

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change in prices over time that consumers pay for goods and services and is the most widely used measure of inflation. The 10-year average (CPI) through May 2021 is 2.3%.



2022 Legislative Priority- Transition Services

The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) is an association comprised of employment and community inclusion service providers in Washington. As a unified voice for providers making up **65% of the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Individual Supported Employment and Community Inclusion caseload**, we are committed to the overall quality of employment outcomes for Washingtonians with Disabilities. The CEA wants the [Transition Collaboratives](#)¹ Recommendations supported and funded.

Funding for Statewide School To Work:

Invest in statewide access to School to Work for students with developmental disabilities. Currently, School to Work is only available in 7 counties. According to DDA, there are 873 students estimated to exit in 2022.

Regional Interagency Transition Networks:

Support new and existing regional interagency transition networks. WA can establish common guidelines across regional networks, to ensure equitable access and participation while maintaining local context, autonomy, and flexibility. Networks would outline their mission, priorities, agreements, and measurable goals relating to regional transition data and needs.

Data Share Agreements:

The Transition Collaborative found universal consensus among stakeholder support for a data share system among OSPI, DDA, and DVR. A notification list of potentially eligible students shared from OSPI to DDA and DVR within two years of students leaving the school system has enormous potential to minimize gaps in services through the transition process.

System Navigation:

Streamline collaboration, information, and navigation support to increase connectivity to needed services after school.

**We don't want Washington students graduating to the couch!
Let's help them get into the workforce!**



2022 Legislative Priority- Transition Services

Students with IDD are 3.9 times more likely to have a job if they exit school through a transition partnership².

Proven Outcomes:

Washington State has demonstrated that when systems partnerships exist, 74% of students with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) will have a job within a year of exiting school. Unfortunately, there is not a statewide collaboration on school to work transitions, so service access is not equitable. Too many students are missing job pathways. It's time to provide an employment transition service to every student in Washington State.



Only 50% of eligible students connect to employment services after exiting high school³.



Only 32% of DDA eligible students are employed one year after exit³.



When a County has a School To Work program, there is a 23% higher service connection rate than communities without (43% vs 53%)⁴.

School to Work:

The most commonly used transition model in Washington is School To Work, a program in 7 of our 39 counties, funded through county millage and DVR. School To Work coordinates employment services while the student is still in school. This program helps individuals navigate the complex adult service system in addition to having higher post school outcomes. Unfortunately, there is no statewide collaboration on school to work transitions, so service access is not equitable.

Job Foundations:

In 2021, DDA launched a statewide pilot to expand access to vocational preparation and system connection. Despite school closures due to the pandemic, counties recognized the need to strengthen transition services. 22 counties launched the program and 15 of those Counties did not have a School to Work program; access is expanding! As of July 2021, 120 students have completed Job Foundation.

Leading the Way:

Washington continues to rank highest in the nation for employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. Providers have the expertise to support student outcomes if the state maintains adequate reimbursement for services.

1. Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Report to the Legislature: Transition Collaborative Summative Report 2020

2. Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration data 2015-2018

3. Washington State Developmental Disabilities Employment Outcomes Monitoring Report, April 2021

4. Washington State Developmental Disabilities DDA Eligible + Transition Client Count 2017-2019 (as of 6.16.21)