

2022 Advocacy Days



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2022 ADVOCACY DAYS

January 12, 2022



Developmental Disabilities Legislative Briefing

2:00–4:00 pm



Developmental Disabilities Statewide Legislative Reception

5:30–7:00 pm



People with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) live successfully in the community when they receive the services and supports they need to do so. These individuals, their families, providers and others will meet with legislators from across the state to discuss issues critical for them to live a whole life.



Invite your Legislators to Attend the Reception!
(The Legislative Campus has cancelled all events in the Columbia Room, so this will be an online only event)



We have learned from past years, that legislators are much more likely to attend the Reception if they are personally invited by one or more of their constituents. Reach out to your Senator and both Representatives NOW and ask them to put this event on their calendar. Let them know that YOU will be expecting them!

Questions? Email Diana@arcwa.org

[Click here for the full Advocacy Days Schedule](#)

and to register for these events!



Statewide Legislative Reception Legislator Invitation

Here is a sample email you can use and modify to invite your legislators to the Developmental Disabilities Statewide Legislative Reception:

Dear **XXX**:

I am your constituent and I would like to invite you to attend the 2022 Developmental Disabilities Legislative Reception. It will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

This event includes people from many diverse backgrounds concerned with issues affecting children and adults who have intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

Because the Capitol Campus has cancelled events in the Columbia Room, we will meet this year on Zoom. The virtual gathering will use breakout rooms for us to meet in.

I really hope you will attend! If you can't attend, please send a member of your staff to speak with me. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the reception to share my thoughts with you on the budget and other policy issues that affect me, my family and hundreds of thousands of other people with IDD in our state.

What: Developmental Disabilities Statewide Legislative Reception

When: January 12, 2022

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Zoom link - [DD Statewide Legislative Reception](#)

Questions: Diana Stadden, Diana@arcwa.org



Please let me know if you can attend. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Thank you,

Your Name



2022 Advocacy Day Schedule

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ADVOCACY DAY

Advocacy Day begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays during the 2022 legislative session. We start with an hour and a half briefing on current issues and end with an afternoon of advocacy. While we feature a highlighted topic each week, the morning briefing will also cover late breaking news on budget items and bills of interest relating to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. You can register each Advocacy Day at <https://arcwa.org/advocacy/advocacy-days>

January 12th—Legislative Briefing/Reception

“Zooming In on the Northstar! Developmental Disabilities” Join us for a briefing on the seven Northstar components of state services and supports that legislators need to fund for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD). Within all these topics are systems accessibility issues that must be addressed! Join us on Zoom at 2 pm for a briefing of the current issues of concern, then attend the Statewide Legislative Reception which will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

January 19th—Housing Accessibility

Finding an safe, affordable, accessible place to live is a crisis for people with IDD! Whether its just finding the housing, trying to secure staffing for supported living services, having well-trained Adult Family Homes or any other residential services, people with IDD struggle to find a place to call home. Most are still living with their families because of lack of options. People with IDD are homeless, being taken advantage of because they have no place to live! What can be done?

January 26th—Civil Rights

Guardianship and Supported Decision-making can be confusing, but both have their appropriate uses. As people improve their employment careers, benefits planners need to be available so they can accept raises and increased hours without losing their healthcare and other essential services. Nothing About Us Without Us means that people with IDD should be involved in any decisions that are made that affect their lives. How can you help?

February 2nd—Employment and Day Services

Having a job means that individuals with IDD can be productive citizens, contributing to our economy by paying taxes, while also providing valuable services. Being gainfully employed is not all there is in a person’s life. In our state, you must choose to receive employment services OR day services, but you can’t have both. Should we provide options instead of only one choice, as most other states do and as our state used to do?

February 9th—Barriers to Transportation

Most people with IDD can’t drive and must rely on public transportation to get around. Due to budget cuts, many bus routes run more limited schedules and no longer run on some routes at all. Many transportation issues are controlled locally by the counties, but some are concerns the state could address. Transferring from one county to the next can be hard because the King and Pierce Counties use the Orca card, but Thurston county does not. How can we fix this?

February 16th—Caregiving of Children and Adults

Caregivers for people with IDD are paid low wages that often require them to work two or three jobs. Its a challenge to find caregivers, especially if the individual has high behavior or physical needs. Language differences increase barriers. Parents often have to quit there job to stay home and provide care for their son or daughter. If you choose to live in a rural area, you face an even greater shortage of providers. What are your needs?

February 23rd—Meeting All Needs in Education

We need full inclusion for all students! Language supports need to available to all families so they can participate in their child’s education. There are many cultural and language barriers; BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) parents and students experience barriers in equitable education at a much higher rate. We need more assistive technology that can be used at home, especially during the pandemic. Will universal design and person centered planning help simplify a complex system?

March 2nd—Healthcare for People with IDD

There is a lack of qualified healthcare providers for people with IDD, especially in mental/behavioral health and IDD dual diagnosis, as well as psychiatric medication management. Medicaid pays 35-50 cents on the dollar in comparison to private health plans. People with significant challenges are taken to hospital emergency rooms, then get stuck there with no medical need. How can we change this?

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE?

We want to know how Advocacy Day was for YOU! After each Advocacy Day event you will be able to share your experience with us. Our evaluation form is short and easy to fill out, find it online by going to:

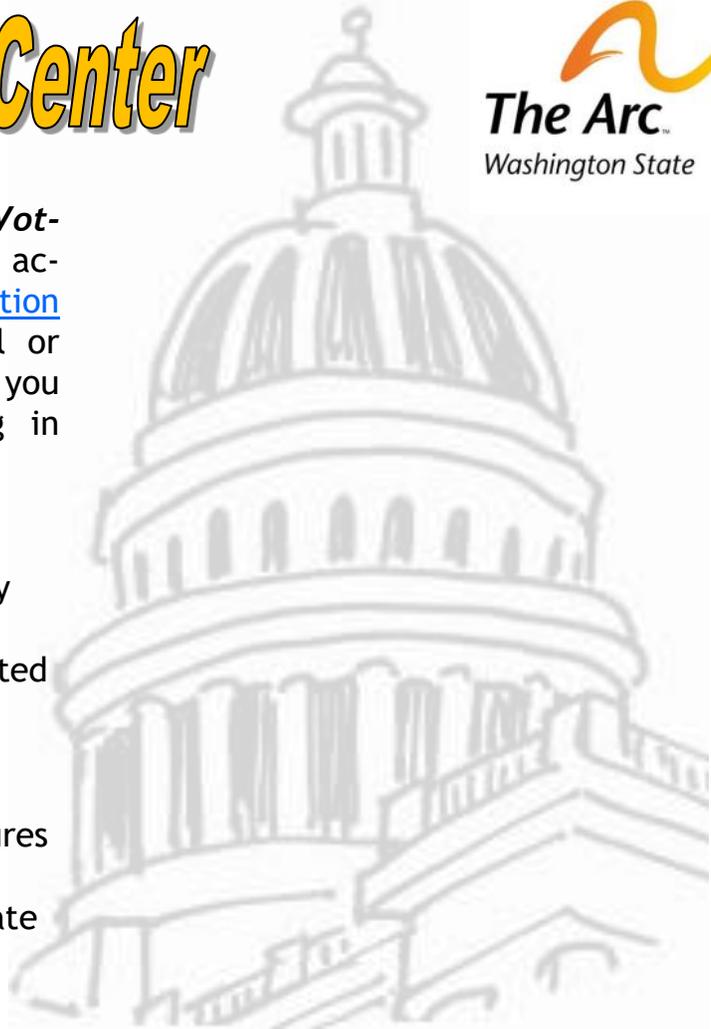
http://arcwa.org/advocacy/advocacy_day Click on [Your Feedback Matters](#)

The Arc's Action Center



Visit The Arc's Action Center using **Voter Voice**. Sign up for easy-to-use action alerts at <https://arcwa.org/action-center>. Get your alerts by email or text and find much more to keep you up-to-date on what is happening in Olympia!

- * Budget and Policy Alerts
- * Advocacy Events including weekly Advocacy Days and Topics
- * Background data about your elected officials
- * Senate and House Committee memberships
- * Petitions to gather online signatures about important issues
- * An online bill tracker for both state and federal concerns
- * And so much more!



You KNOW me...

I live in the 4th Legislative District; Senator Mike Padden, Representative Matt Shea and Representative Bob McCaslin represent ME!



I attend East Valley High School, I love listening to music, I can't wait to go to my first high school dance. I really need a respite provider!

There are an estimated 117,000 individuals with a developmental disability in Washington State. Some of us need state services and supports to fully participate and be included in our community.

More than 48,000 of us are qualified for support services with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to help us be productive citizens, but thousands of people sit on DDA wait lists for services, others can't find providers, all due to lack of state funding.

PLEASE ADEQUATELY FUND COMMUNITY DDA SERVICES!

Help us create a state where people with intellectual/developmental disabilities are included in their communities and neighborhoods and where quality supports and services respond to their needs and personal choices.

To learn how you can help, go to: www.arcwa.org/advocacy

The Arc of Washington State ~ (888) 754-8798

You can let Legislators hear **your voice** as part of our "You KNOW Me..." (YKM) campaign. Click the YKM document here to see all the voices who are sharing what is important to them with their own legislators. The Arc of Washington State's YKM campaign is intended to help legislators get some meaningful perspective from some of their constituents who have a developmental disability. You can do your part too!

Email Diana@arcwa.org to learn how you can add your voice!

Make Your Voice Heard—Advocate!

Many legislators use technology to reach their constituents, share their views on issues and quickly work to inform and educate each other.



Be a Fan on **Facebook**. Sign in at www.facebook.com, search for The Arc—Washington State. Events including each Advocacy Day can be found on our page.

Twitter



Do you tweet? You can follow us on **Twitter** at www.twitter.com/TheArcofWA



Instagram gives you a picture into the life of advocacy! With pictures of advocates making their voices heard, you can see how easy it can be to make your voice heard! www.instagram.com/thearcofwa/



Our Hot Tips booklet prepares you to be an effective and informed advocate in Olympia or at home using your phone or computer. The Advocacy Day Schedule is included with contact for information for important advocacy resources. View it in English or Spanish at www.arcwa.org/resource-library/publications or call us today for a copy!



Opportunities to advocate from your home computer are just one click away when you visit The Arc's online action center - **Voter Voice**. Sign up for easy-to-use action alerts by email, text message at <https://arcwa.org/action-center>

See our web site at www.arcwa.org, click the ADVOCACY tab where you will find useful information including the links above and:

- **Advocacy Day** information is under this tab with dates and topics, a list of our elected officials and much more, just a click away!
- Join The Arc's **Action Center** to get notified when legislators need to hear from YOU to help them decide how to vote on a bill or budget item. Your voice does make a difference!
- **Annual Legislative Notebook for Advocates** containing one-page information sheets on current issues as well as associated data and charts is under the 2021 Legislative Session tab. The current version is posted each December.
 - ⇒ Find **Bills and Budget** charts that provide a brief summary of and links to legislative bills and budget overviews, as well as hearings on our bills updated weekly during legislative session.
- NOW IN SPANISH! Get these booklets: Consejos Prácticos, Hechos Sobre Los Cinco Programas de Exención en el Hogar y en la Comunidad, Beneficios Federales y Servicios Estatales, Tutela: Preguntas Frecuentes, La Historia de Actividades, Eventos y Políticas Estatales y Nacionales as well as a number of brochures: The Arc—Para personas con discapacidades intelectuales y de desarrollo, Proyecto de Abogacía en Alianza, Proyecto de Abogacía en Alianza, Centro de Acción Legislativa de The Arc, Sea un Defensor Eficaz, ¿Ahora qué Sigue?, Su Idea Puede Ser una Ley del Estado.

How to Testify in Committee

Washington State has one of the most open legislatures in the country. A bill has a public hearing before Senate and House committees before being considered on the floor of the House and Senate. Your opportunity to testify comes at the committee hearings. If you cannot appear before a committee, contact your legislator, making your position on a bill known. Write a letter or an e-mail, call the legislator's office or the Legislative Hotline at 800.562.6000.

Committee Hearings:

Legislative hearings are conducted informally. The rules are somewhat relaxed, but are intended to help preserve decorum and allow respectful, courteous debate. (Reminders of hearing room rules are [here](#) for the House and [here](#) for the Senate.) Anyone can testify; you do not need formal training. To find out when a hearing is scheduled:

- Click [Schedules of committee hearings](#) to obtain electronic copy of the weekly and daily schedules.
- Call the toll-free Legislative Hotline number (1.800.562.6000).
- Subscribe to the [Legislature's Committee E-mail Notification Service](#).

Before the Hearing:

- **Prepare Your Remarks.** Time is usually limited to 2 minutes or less, so be brief and direct. Committee staff will distribute copies of written testimony to members of the committee if you email it to them. Writing your comments in outline form will be helpful when you speak, and you should summarize your written testimony.
- **Avoid Duplication.** If other persons will be offering similar testimony at the hearing, try to coordinate your testimony and avoid duplication. Well organized testimony is the most effective.

At the Virtual Committee Meeting:

- **Be punctual!** Usually there is only one public hearing at which testimony is taken on a particular bill.
- Sign-in is now done electronically in all committees.
- Check to see if proposed amendments or substitute bills are available.

How the Meeting Is Conducted:

Be present at the beginning of the hearing. The committee chair will open the hearing on a particular bill. Frequently, opening comments will be made by the bill's sponsor or by committee staff. Sometimes, however, the chair will ask for testimony from proponents and opponents immediately. **The chair will organize the hearing to ensure that the committee members hear relevant information, that interested persons are given the opportunity to express their positions, and that the hearing does not exceed the time available.**

Most committee hearings are limited to two hours and may have several matters pending. The chair will attempt to be fair and provide each person an opportunity to testify. It may be necessary, however, to restrict testimony so that everyone is given an opportunity to express his or her opinions. You may be called to testify with others to save time.

Making Your Remarks

- 1) Begin by introducing yourself to the chair and committee members and stating your purpose. For example, "Mr. or Madam Chair and members of the committee, I am John Doe from Spokane. I am here representing myself. I support this bill because . . ."
- 2) In your opening remarks, make it clear whether you are representing other citizens or a separate group.
- 3) Be brief and be sure your remarks are clear. Avoid being too technical and do not repeat previously made remarks. You do not need to be nervous or worried about how you present your testimony.
- 4) Be prepared for questions and comments from committee members. These are designed to gain additional information, but don't answer if you are not sure of the answer. Tell the members you will send a written answer to the committee, and then follow through.

How to Submit Written Testimony:

If you are unable to attend a hearing, you may use the following method for submitting written testimony:

- In the House. Email your written testimony directly to all committee members as well as to the Committee Chair or the Chair's LA. Be sure to include the bill number and your position on the bill. A list of Committee Chairs can be found at this website: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/CommitteeMembersByCommittee/House>.
- In the Senate. You may email your written testimony directly to committee members as well as to the Committee Chair or the Chair's LA. Be sure to include the bill number and your position on the bill. Another option is to email your written testimony to committee staff, as an alternative or in addition to submitting testimony to committee members. A list of Senate committees and staff can be found at this website: <http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Pages/default.aspx>.

More information will be available online at <https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx>