

2023 Public Policy Agenda

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



The Arc's vision is for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to be valued members of their communities with the opportunity to realize their full potential and a future that is secure.

The Arc of Washington State has been advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families since 1936. We work to ensure that the state knows the critical needs of both children and adults with IDD and that the necessary funding for those quality services and supports is consistently appropriated by the legislature.

The Arc of Washington State is committed to ensuring that individuals with IDD and their families have the information they need to have an active voice as legislative policies and budgets are crafted and passed each year.

This is a Biennium budget year for both capital and operating budgets.

The Arc of Washington State has compiled input from members, stakeholders, and like-mission organizations and coalitions to identify legislative priorities for the 2023-2025 Operating and Capital budgets. The Arc works closely with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), the Governor's Office, and multiple agencies to provide input to agency Decision Packages and advocates for gaps in community-based services. The Arc works throughout the legislative session to track bills and provide education and information on the impact of legislation. There are also critical services used by people with IDD within other agency budgets. Throughout the session, you can find our "smiley face" Budget Side-by-Side chart on our website at <https://arcwa.org/billtracker/>. This will help with tracking bills and budget items throughout the legislative session.

**Respect.
Dignity.
Inclusion.**

For additional information:
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email Diana@arcwa.org

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These Public Policies are Supported by:

- The Arc of Washington State
- The Arc of Cowlitz County
- The Arc of Grays Harbor
- The Arc of King County
- The Arc of Snohomish County
- The Arc of Southwest WA
- The Arc of Spokane
- The Arc of Tri-Cities
- The Arc of Whatcom County





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People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) need statewide public policies that allow them to live inclusively in their local communities and to be active, participating members of society.

Budget Priorities & Fundamental Supports

- Require formal, permanent caseload forecasting for services for individuals with IDD
- Fund services for ALL eligible DDA clients to end the waiting list
- Fund the November 2022 courtesy caseload forecast

HCBS Waiver Services

- Increase openings for the *Basic Plus, Individual and Family Services (IFS), Core, and Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Supports (CIIBS)* Waivers
- Support people with IDD in crisis, reducing out-of-home placements
- Prioritize services for senior families
- Expand waiver services to include "supervision" for people in home and other residential settings with cognitive/behavioral support needs
- Create a provider category for behavior specialty paid at a higher rate
- Remove 4 year old and 10 year old eligibility requirements

Community Residential Services

- Pay Supported Living providers at a rate equitable with state providers
- Fund community residential options for teens and adults with high behavior support needs
- Expand residential options and models, including establishing AFH/DD specialty per legislative report recommendations.
- Act on the December 2022 DD Housing Reports and PreDesign Study
- Increase Basic Plus aggregate amount and allow housing navigation/plan service

Affordable Housing

- Expand safe, affordable housing options for all DDA clients
- Provide funding to Commerce and DDA to provide technical assistance to developers and smaller organizations to expand capacity for building DD housing
- Increase the Housing Trust Fund Developmental Disabilities Set-aside
- Ensure stable housing for homeless families caring for children with IDD and homeless adults with IDD

Equity & Civil Rights

- Downsize and close Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC)
- Allow people to live in their community rather than congregate settings by ensuring that adequate funding is provided to do so
- Provide appropriate supports to Parents with IDD
- Expand access to transportation

Health Care

- Expand crisis support for youth and adults with IDD in behavioral crisis and eliminate acute care and inpatient hospital boarding
- Add the TEFRA waiver to our State Plan so families with children with complex needs can buy into Medicaid services to avoid financial instability
- Expand well care and mental healthcare provider capacity for people with IDD using Medicaid

Education

- Ban suspensions and expulsions pre-K to grade 3
- Discontinue abusive restraints and end isolation
- Build inclusionary practices by providing technical support for universal design for learning including multitiered systems and supports
- Remove the cap and completely fund all special education students
- Support the *Transition Collaborative* recommendations
- Provide school-based and community partner services to support IDD students with high acuity needs to eliminate out-of-state educational placements

Employment and Day Programs

- Increase the Community Engagement and Inclusion rates and expand programs statewide
- Ensure all people have employment and day supports *in their local* community