



# Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

## 2023 Legislative Priorities



**Incentivize the development of low-income housing for I/DD by earmarking funds and offering incentives that allow the projects to be competitive.**

Housing for people with developmental disabilities has been historically underfunded and is in crisis. Affordable housing programs are drastically underfunded and experience long waitlists, causing housing insecurities. It is critical to expand safe, affordable housing options for all DDA clients and ensure that residential services are also available.



**Require formal, permanent caseload forecasting for all DDA services. Until that is implemented, continue to forecast and fund numbers for transition students and residential services.**

Caseload forecasting informs policy-makers of the number of people who are eligible for certain services and in turn will allow planning to ensure critical services **are available to those who are eligible**. There are nearly 13,000 individuals with I/DD who qualify for DDA services but receive nothing due to lack of funding.



**Adopt recommendations of the DSHS Employment and Day Rate Study to sustain client services by stabilizing the Community Inclusion and Employment provider networks and increasing funding for Community Outreach and Education.**

Legislation passed last session expands services for clients. However, providers are facing a significant workforce crisis and client access to services is at risk. National and local experts agree that the workforce crisis may be the most significant challenge we face in maintaining client services (DSHS 2022 Employment and Day Rate Study).

The Pierce County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board thanks the Legislature for your continued efforts to expand services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). In 2022 you passed legislation that supported our community in unprecedented ways.

Despite these efforts, Washington continues to fall in the lower 25% for funding nationally and more than **12,891 individuals** with I/DD (**1,817 in Pierce County**) are currently enrolled in the **Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)** service system on the **No Paid Services Caseload** (DDA 2021 Caseload and Cost Report).

Individuals and families continue to be in crisis, unable to find housing and services in their local communities. **We ask you to address these critical needs in the ways listed.**

*For more information, please contact:*

Malissa Adame  
Pierce County Human Services  
Developmental Disabilities

malissa.adame@piercecountywa.gov  
253-306-0416