Support Adult Family Home Recommendations

Currently there are 1,793 individuals with I/DD living in Adult Family Homes (AFH) while 13,623 adults with I/DD live with a parent or relative. The vast majority of AFHs statewide serve elderly residents. Only 54 of the 1,793 AFHs are designed to exclusively serve adults with I/DD; these specialty homes serve 324 individuals. The availability of this housing model has been shrinking over the past 5 years with fewer homes providing services specifically for this population. In King County alone, that number has gone from 21 to 14, representing a decrease of 37% and a loss of 42 beds.

Adult Family Homes (AFHs) are the only housing model available to individuals on the Basic Plus waiver. Most individuals living in AFHs have aging parents who are no longer able to provide 24/7 care for their sons and daughters. Adult Family Homes provide critical housing solutions for adults with moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities. Adult Family Homes are affordable for individuals who are very low income and are cost effective for the state. The average daily cost of an AFH is $138 compared to $518 for Supported Living. We must protect, expand and enhance this important option.

SB 5672 states “the developmental disabilities administration within the department shall work with stakeholders to design and implement services for individuals living in adult family homes who have a primary need of care related to a developmental or intellectual disability.”

GOALS
- Create a DD/ID Specialty contract for AFHs
- Utilize supports and behaviors in the AFH assessment and classification
- Provide equitable access for DDA AFH residents seeking community activities
- Workforce development/benefits (living wage) and healthcare for AFH care providers
- Align AFH regulatory environment for DD/ID homes
- Develop a forecast and strategic plan of future residential/housing services that will be needed for adults with DD/ID
- Separate the licensing of the facility from the licensing of the care provider

REQUESTS
- Support the DDA pilot request in the DSHS decision package that implements 5672
- Support the AFH rate increases from the collective bargaining agreement
- Support the DD non-profit tax exemption bill for adult family homes

Washington is 39th in the nation for serving people with I/DD (Braddock). There is not enough housing for people with I/D/DD. We must do better.

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