

People with IDD Wait To Be Served!

Caseload Forecast DDA Services!



Parent Provider Inequity

In the state of Washington, some care providers may be compensated for the work they do to provide support and personal care to individuals with disabilities living in the community. Current state policy permits the parents of an individual with a disability over the age of 18 to receive compensation as a paid caregiver. However, the parent of an individual with a disability under the age of 18 cannot be compensated for providing the same care.

Currently state policy establishes a threshold for caregiver compensation that is tied only to the age of the care recipient, without consideration of the type of care, the level of care that is needed, or any other hardship this policy creates for the caregiver and their family. This policy, based solely on the age of the care recipient, is inequitable and harmful to parents and families across the state. Caregiving is hard work. Informal (unpaid) caregiving has been associated with higher impact to both the physical and mental health of the caregiver, as well as financial hardship.

It is difficult for parent and family caregivers to balance caregiving and outside employment, which often causes caregivers to remain chronically under- or unemployed. This has a profound impact on the family. The fact that state policy authorizes the parent and family caregivers of individuals over age 18 to receive compensation for their caregiving work, while denying the same compensation to parent and family caregivers of individuals under the age of 18, leaves these families financially unstable and economically and socially vulnerable.

A significant majority of parent and family caregivers are women. The current state policy inequitably and detrimentally impacts the mothers of young children and youth with significant disabilities requiring the highest level of support.

Based on Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) regulations, being able to become an individual provider to your son or daughter with developmental disabilities is limited to those over the age of 18. This regulation inequity is found in WAC 388-845-0111, which states, in part:

"The following limitations apply to providers for waiver services:

- (2) If you are under age eighteen, your natural, step, or adoptive parent must not be your paid provider for any waiver service.
- (3) If you are age eighteen or older, your natural, step, or adoptive parent must not be your paid provider for any waiver services with the exception of:
 - (a) personal care;
 - (b) transportation to and from a waiver service;
 - (c) residential habilitation services...;
 - (d) respite care if you and the parent who provides the respite care live in separate homes."

Solution:

Remove the language in WAC 388-845-0111 (2) and (3) that creates differential treatment between parent caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities based upon the age of the care recipient.

Provide Equity in Caregiving Modify WAC 388-845-0111 (2) and (3)

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