



Create a Legal Service Pilot Program

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Who is working on this issue?

The Arc of Spokane, along with The Arc of Washington and other chapters

Advocacy areas

Civil rights

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) often have nowhere to turn when they experience legal barriers to accessing services and supports, impacting their ability to fully live their lives.

People with IDD who also experience other types of discrimination are even more impacted and further isolated from legal services. This particularly includes Black, Indigenous, and people of color and those with co-occurring mental health conditions.

People with IDD are often:

- Forced to live in poverty with few assets
- Rely on complicated systems of support
- Face discrimination in education, work, and health care
- Are more likely to be victims of crime and abuse

By failing to target legal services to the IDD community, we are passively saying “no” to providing the individualized services individuals need to get and keep employment, housing, education, benefits, and health care.



What is your proposed solution?



Allocate funding for an legal service pilot program for people with IDD.

- The pilot will include 2 chapters of The Arc and 2 legal service providers.
- It will enhance the referral process and coordination of services with civil legal service providers and underrepresented community organizations.

- A dedicated legal team will be established, consisting of 2 coordinators, 2 legal assistants and 2 attorneys, specially trained to work with and reach out to individuals with IDD.

Why is this a good solution?

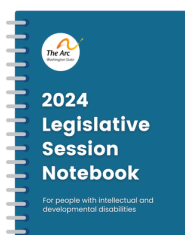
People with IDD face significant obstacles when seeking access to civil legal services. These challenges can include:

- Lack of knowledge about where to turn for help.
- Lack of understanding about when a problem has a legal remedy.
- Complicated intake processes, phone trees, and long holding times.
- An inability to take action on brief service or trainings.
- A lack of available resources for representation.
- An inability to read or write.
- Lack of access to computers.



To provide equity for those with IDD and their families, we must create legal systems that they can access and afford. Having lawyers dedicated to support those with IDD and their families will empower and protect this under-represented population.

What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
\$1.04 million for the pilot	If successful, this will be included in the state supplemental operating budget	Rep. Jamila Taylor, 30th LD, Jamila.Taylor@leg.wa.gov



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