

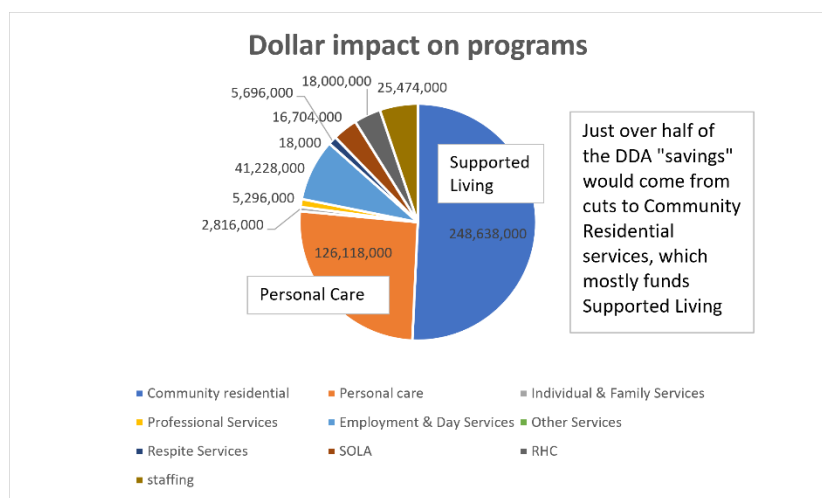
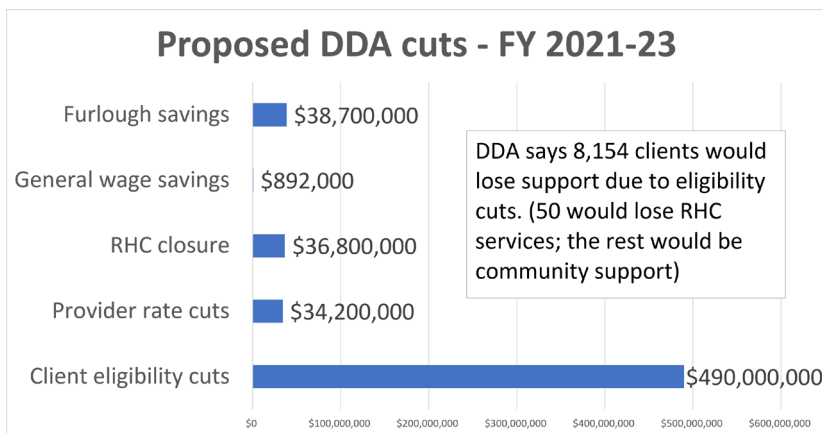


Cuts to DDA are not savings!

Among the proposals to cut spending in DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration is one that changes eligibility to stop services for 8,104 clients served in the community, and 50 served in the RHCs, our state's large institutions. Overall, about a quarter of DDA clients would lose all support. For people served in home or community settings, that increases to 30 percent.

- 41st ... and falling?** Washington's system of supports for people with developmental disabilities is fragile and inadequate, serving less than 30 percent of the people it should*. The DDA budget is built off current expenses, not on increasing or unmet need, or even on numbers who qualify. Our state is 41st in spending, has high case manager ratios (1 to 75), and already rations care, leaving thousands waiting for essential access to health, housing, education, and jobs.
- 15% cuts are really 30%** once you factor in loss of matching federal dollars. And the impact can feel even greater. Demand for housing, food, behavioral health supports, and emergency care all jump when DD supports are cut.
- Deepest poverty.** People with a cognitive /behavioral disability face the highest rates of poverty in the state. These folks make up the core of people with developmental disabilities. For those who rely on them, supports are so much more than safety and security:

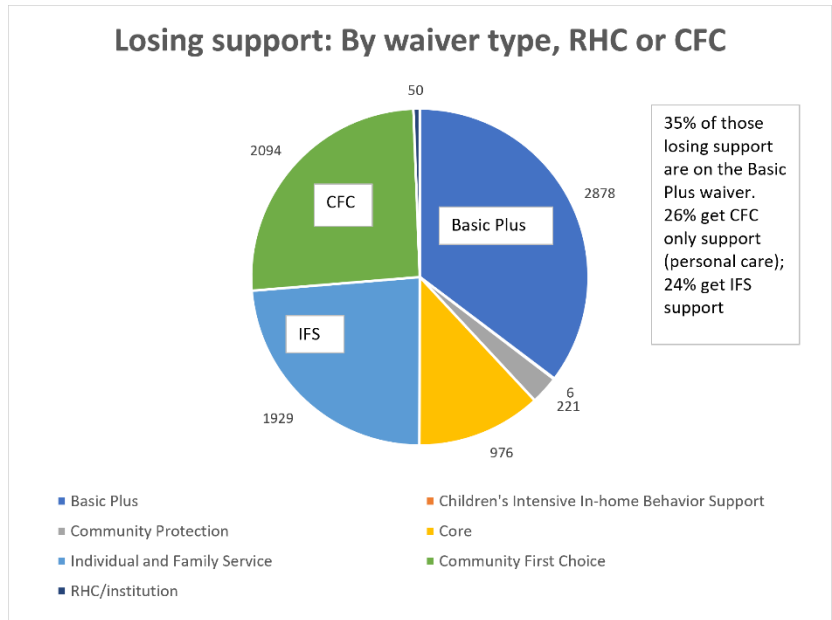
- Personal care literally means being able to get out of bed
- Residential support means access to a home
- Employment support means access to jobs



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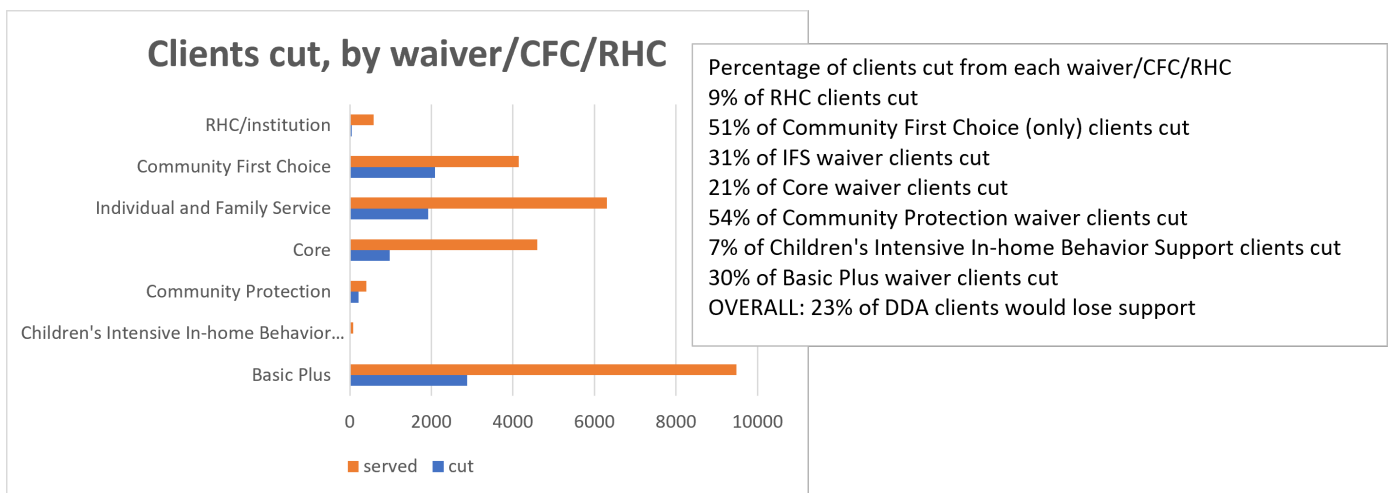


- **The domino effect.** When people secure a waiver through DDA they also secure Medicaid Apple Health, food benefits, and in King County, possibly mental health support via Sound. Home and job are often directly tied to supports.
- **One event away from crisis.** ALL clients need the support. Whether they need just 1 support once a week, or several 24/7, that support is what is keeping them – and their families – out of crisis. Cut support and hospitals/ERs see increases; institutional care increases; homelessness increases; and incarceration increases.



- **Arbitrary.** The models show people at the highest classification levels losing all support. When asked which factors determined winners and losers, DDA could not answer. “It’s not that simple.”
- **Ending chronic homelessness saves taxpayers money.** In King County, we know about two-thirds of the homeless population has a disability, and national research shows 30 to 40 percent of people experiencing homelessness have an intellectual disability. Research also shows that providing supportive housing cuts costs to society by almost half. So why would the state cut the supports that keep people with DD (and often their families) out of chronic homelessness?

“It’s not a service. It’s my life.” Without supports, those facing deepest poverty can lose everything.



**1.58% of the population meets the federal definition for developmental disability used to determine federal grants. That’s 120,000 people in WA. Just 35,233 get a paid service here, and just 20,886 are on a home and community based services waiver. If cuts go through, that would drop below 15,000*

