

# What's the DDA (and who does it serve)?

“DDA” is short for the Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). It administers programs that support people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

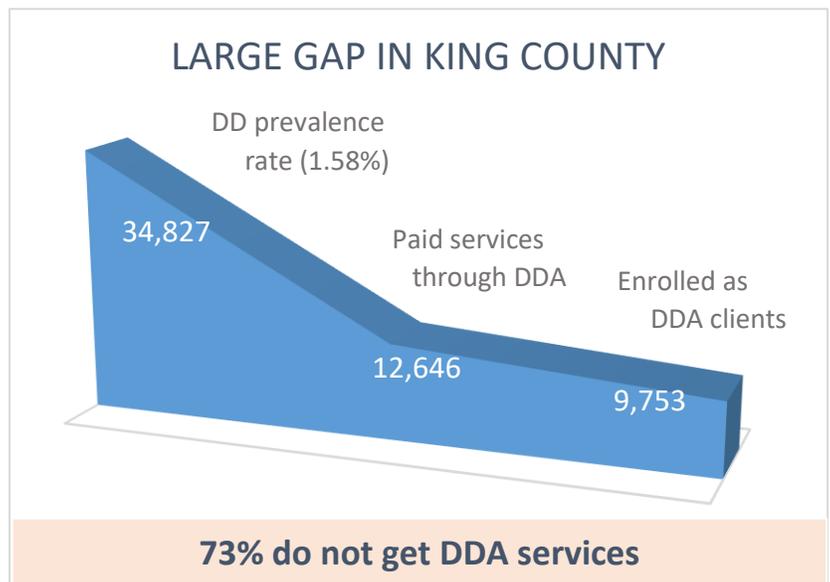
Services help people keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning needed for daily living. They might include physical therapies, residential supports, speech pathology, assistive technology, or supports to keep a job.

## Not all people who identify as having a developmental disability are DDA clients.

Enrollment is not automatic and the state limits who it will serve after age three. For instance, a child with autism could qualify for birth-to-three supports and then special education services, but not qualify for DDA services if they do not meet Washington’s DDA eligibility for autism.

Generally, developmental disabilities originate at birth or during childhood and are characterized by impairments in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, or a physical impairment, or a combination of intellectual, adaptive, and physical impairments. They are chronic and result in substantial functional limitation in three or more major life activities. The term includes intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and others.

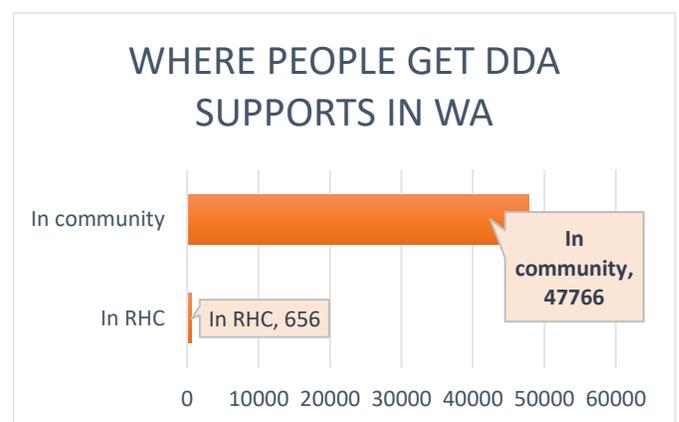
Most DDA supports in Washington are delivered through Medicaid Home and Community Based Services. These are called “waiver services” because individuals waive the option to receive services in an institutional setting. DDA also oversees the Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs), which provide long-term DD services in a large institutional setting.



Sources: US Census data, 2019; Care System on 7/1/2019

*In determining need for services, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses a prevalence rate of 1.58 percent. This figure comes from the National Health Interview Survey on Disability and meets the definition of developmental disability in the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. Using this rate, Washington should have about 119,000 people with developmental disabilities.*

**King County should have 34,827 residents with developmental disabilities.**



Source: Care System on 7/1/2019

# Services administered by King County

Most services provided through the Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disability Administration are funded by Medicaid using state and federal dollars. Some services flow through King County, and in some cases, King County braids in local funds to supplement support for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

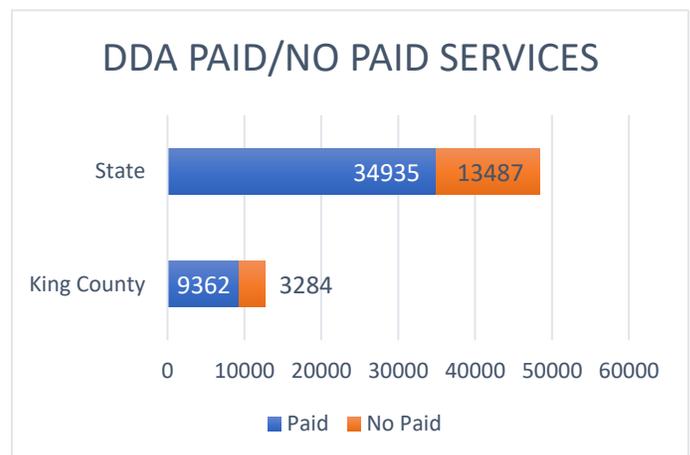
Being supported in the community is a federal, state and local partnership. King County administers:

**Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers** build upon family strengths by providing service coordination, supports, and resources to enhance the development of qualifying children with disabilities or developmental delays through everyday learning opportunities. Services can include occupational or physical therapy, speech-language pathology, feeding therapy, specialized instruction, assisted technology, hearing or vision services, and more.

**School-to-Work** offers transition services designed to help students leave school with a job. Employment providers support students in a discovery process to learn more about their skills and interests, then use this information to develop individualized job opportunities. While all students receiving special education services must have a plan for transition services, School-to-Work is only open to DDA clients.

**Individual Employment Services:** DDA clients are supported to earn minimum wage or better. Services are individually tailored with the goal that all individuals can work and contribute in their community.

**Community Inclusion Services** are available to DDA clients 62 or older, or those over 21 who have tried employment services for nine months or more. Services are individualized and designed to support development of relationships, skills and connections



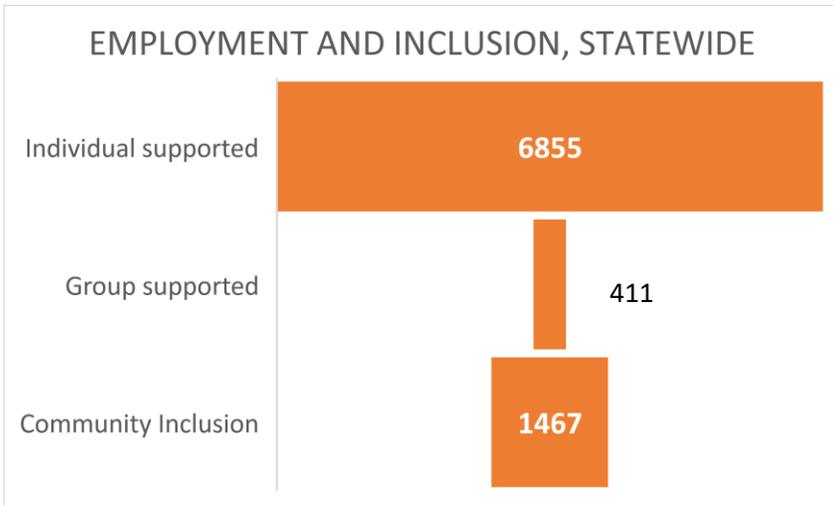
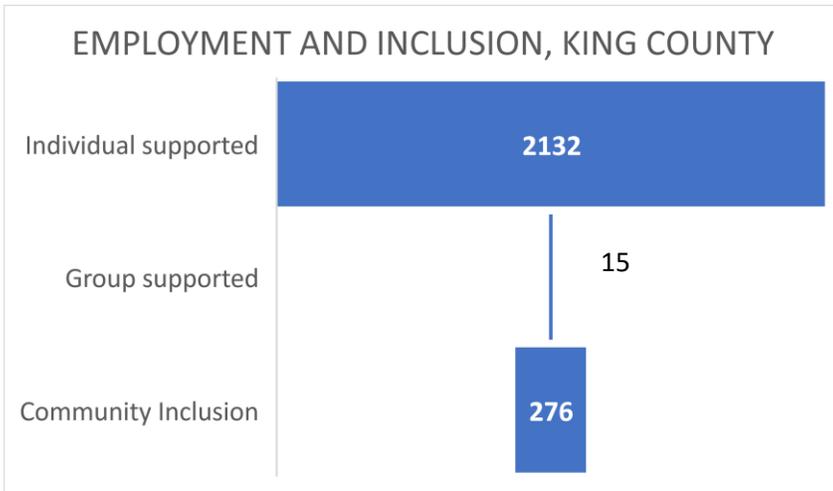
Source: Care System on 7/1/2019

within participants' local community.

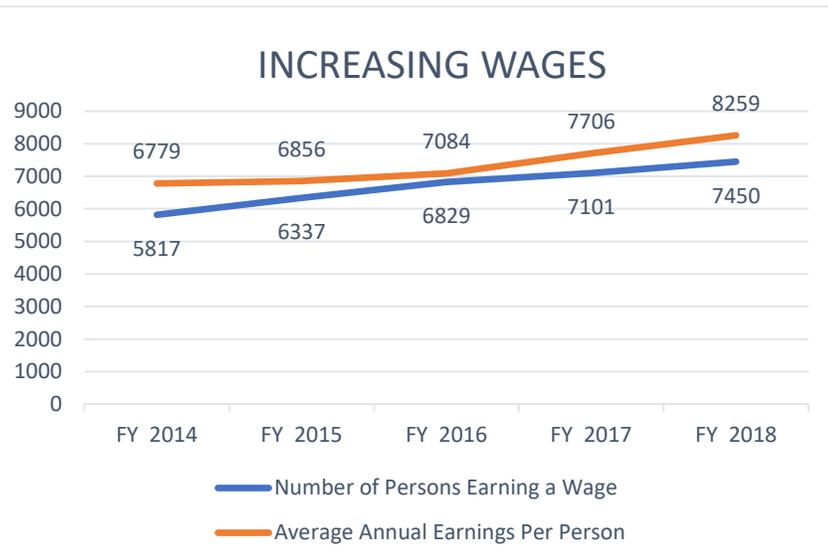
**Community Information & Outreach:** The county contracts out to provide information and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their family members; systems navigation to coordinate early childhood services; and training and technical assistance for early intervention and employment providers.



# Integrated employment is now the norm



Source: Care System on 7/1/2019



Data Source: ESD-RDA9/6/2019

Employment has changed for people with developmental disabilities. Where once individuals might have worked in a pre-vocational, or sheltered, setting and earned subminimum wage, today most people in Washington with developmental disabilities who are supported to work do so in an integrated environment earning minimum wage or better. The Department of Social and Health Services stopped enrolling clients in pre-vocational settings in September 2015. Those settings do not comply with Centers for Medicaid rules that services be provided in an integrated and supportive setting.

Most clients are now placed in individual supported employment, where minimum wage or better prevails. A smaller number are placed in group supported employment and may still earn subminimum wage.

**Many disability rights groups are working to end the practice of subminimum pay, saying it is discriminatory.** Federal and state law allows the practice, but employers must first determine a job standard and prevailing wage, and then evaluate the quantity and quality of the productivity of workers who have disabilities against that standard. Pay can be adjusted down depending on the evaluation. Workers must be evaluated every six months. Employees without disabilities are not subject to productivity test.