



Action Request

Request caseload forecasting for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to plan for future caseload growth at critical transition points across their lifespan.

Why is Caseload Forecasting Important?

The Caseload Forecast Council is responsible for forecasting the entitlement caseloads for the State of Washington. These caseload forecasts tell policy makers the numbers of people expected to be eligible for certain services and are used to inform the development of state budgets. A small number of services provided by the State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) are forecasted. **All DDA services need to be forecasted in order to plan for changes and trends in caseload growth and provide services that are preventative, community-based and cost-efficient.**

Missing Information on Service Needs

There are 13,487 individualsⁱ with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide who are eligible for DDA services but have not been approved for a paid service. This includes 3,284 in King County. Very little is known about the needs of those on the No Paid Services (NPS) list because they have not had a needs assessment. They may have failed to request services, declined services, or experienced cultural, language or other barriers that prevented them from requesting or understanding services that are available. There are no Case Resource Managers to monitor change in status.

There is also unknown need among people who are on DDA's Paid Services caseload. They are eligible to receive services but may not have access to the scope of support they require, especially if they have a dually diagnosed behavior health disorder or their caregivers are aging. For instance, they may receive personal

care but also need employment or residential supports. In addition, many individuals eligible for services are not able to find providers.

State Auditor Recommendations

To address access and equality, in 2013 the state auditor recommended, in part, assigning case managers to DDA's NPS listⁱⁱ to collect information about what services people need; the level of support they require; and how urgent their needs are. These recommendations have not been implemented. **Case Resource Managers are needed to assist individuals on the NPS list and collect information on service needs.**

Data Needs for Key Transition Points

To anticipate evolving needs across the lifespan and assist the state and counties in planning, forecasting is needed for the following:

- Transition students eligible for DDA who are leaving high school
- Aging individuals (ages 40+) eligible for DDA living with senior families
- Youth eligible for DDA who are in foster care
- Individuals waiting to access capped services through DDA's five Medicaid waiver programs: Basic Plus, Children's Intensive In-home Behavioral Supports, Community Protection, Core, and Individual and Family Services

Caseload forecasting is needed in order to better plan and respond to budget pressures and crises in the DDA system.

ⁱ State DDA CARE System on 7/1/2019

ⁱⁱ Developmental Disabilities in Washington: Increasing Access and Equality. July 2013.