



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration
PO Box 45600
Olympia, WA 98504-5600

Dear family member,

The Department of Social and Health Services' Developmental Disabilities Administration is excited to announce the creation of the DDA Family Advisory Council. This Council reflects DDA's ongoing commitment to have those with lived experience help to guide our work. The DDA Guiding Values of (Inclusion ~ Status and Contribution ~ Relationships Power and Choice ~ Health and Safety ~ Competence) drive the services and supports available in this state. We recognize that family members and self-advocates are at the heart of these values. The mission of the Family Advisory Council will be to ensure the programs, policies, and procedures of DDA reflect the experiences, wisdom, and advocacy of family members of DDA eligible clients. Family Advisory Council members will have opportunities to provide suggestions on how to improve the quality and effectiveness of DDA programs. DDA staff will also seek input from the Family Advisory Council to ensure robust, transparent, accessible communication with DDA eligible individuals and their families. The Family Advisory Council will be comprised of 15 members. We strive to reflect the diversity of Washington state. We hope for broad representation reflecting cultural, language and racial diversity, a wide range of developmental disabilities, varying levels of support needs and reflecting need across the lifespan and across the geography of Washington state. The council will be comprised of family members who meet one or more of the following criteria:

Family member of a DDA eligible person	Representation from:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With significant disabilities• Under the age of 18,• Over the age of 18• Who is a sibling/grandchild	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BIPOC community members• ESL communities• Each of DDA's three regions• Urban and rural communities

Appointments to the Family Advisory Council will be for a two-year term. The Family Advisory Council members are asked to commit to attending a two-hour meeting monthly on a re-occurring day of the month as determined by the Family Advisory Council. Members will connect with and gather information from their communities to ensure they are representing the variety of experiences of all families. Employees of DDA are not eligible to serve on the Family Advisory Council.

The application for the Family Advisory Council is attached below. Applications will be accepted through the end of September 2023. The applications will be reviewed by a panel which will consist of family members who are not applying to be members of this first two-year term; a representative from DSHS Secretary Jilma Meneses' office; and a representative of a partner agency from within DSHS. To ensure impartiality, the panel will receive the applications without names attached. In subsequent years after

the creation of the Family Advisory Council, the panel reviewing applications will include members from the Family Advisory Council.

Application Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FC2SKQZ>

Please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Program Manager, Michelle Sturdevant-Case at michelle.sturdevant-case@dshs.wa.gov or 360.480.0718 with any questions.