



Board for Developmental Disabilities 2020 State Legislative Priorities

Approved by the King County Board for Developmental Disabilities on October 2, 2019

The board thanks the Legislature for its continued support for children with developmental delays or disabilities, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and their families. Thank you for providing support to individuals who are leaving the Residential Habilitation Centers. As noted below, this support is inclusive of appropriate, affordable housing and behavioral health treatment for those who need it. When any legislation is developed and reviewed, we ask that you use a racial, social, and economic justice approach to eliminate disparities and ensure cultural and language supports are in place to serve King County's diverse population.

Build capacity to provide equitable and culturally responsive services for individuals across their lifespan:

Washington State currently ranks 41st in the nation in total fiscal effort provided towards persons with I/DD (Braddock, 2017). We can do better. According to the State Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) 2019 Caseload and Cost Report, there are 13,487 individuals with I/DD statewide (3,284 in King County) enrolled in DDA's service system on its "No Paid Services Caseload." **Recommended actions:**

- **Request** caseload forecasting for individuals with I/DD, to plan for future caseload growth at critical transition points across their lifespan.
- **Support** the state funding transfer for the provision of early intervention services for children ages birth-to-three, from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Department of Children, Youth and Families and the methodology for calculating annual allocations as outlined in the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers Detailed Funding Model report submitted to the Legislature.
- **Protect** Washington's Employment First policy and maintain employment funding; ensure all students leaving high school in 2019-2021 who are eligible for DDA services are added to the Basic Plus Waiver in order to receive employment and other needed supports.
- **Increase** workforce capacity and expertise across all services; expand culturally responsive training and technical assistance to support individuals, families and caregivers facing mental health crises and prevent future crises.
- **Adequately** fund Supported Living services in order to serve new individuals waiting for community residential services, stabilize providers, and address the ongoing crisis in employee turnover.

Increase housing options:

A growing number of adults with I/DD, including those living with aging parents, and families with moderate to very low-incomes, are facing a crisis in finding affordable, accessible and appropriate housing. Individuals with I/DD need housing along with culturally responsive residential supports. **Recommended actions:**

- **Increase** the housing supply for individuals with I/DD earning less than 30 percent of the area median income.
- **Require** the development of new state regulations for adult family homes specific to serving people with I/DD. Address barriers that are inhibiting the development of this important housing option.

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Additionally, the King County Board for Developmental Disabilities also supports ending the exemption for subminimum wages:

Individuals with disabilities must have an opportunity to work successfully in the community at minimum wage or higher.

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