



## Build Capacity and Provide Equitable Access to Community-Based Supports

More than 14,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) statewide (approximately 4,000 in King County) are enrolled in the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) service system and not receiving services. Many cannot use their allotted services because of provider shortages or other capacity issues. In addition, hundreds more are enrolled into the system each month and cultural and language supports are needed to assist individuals and families to access services. **Recommended actions:**

- **Build** capacity in the pool of approved providers for all services and address barriers such as low wages.
- **Serve** all infants and toddlers eligible for Early Support for Infants and Toddlers services by adequately funding the program.
- **Add** 106 individuals who are currently living with aging parents or other family members and facing crisis to the Medicaid Core Waiver program so they can receive appropriate community based placements as needed.
- **Adequately fund** Supported Living in order to serve new clients waiting for services, stabilize providers, stop the trend of decreasing capacity and address an ongoing crisis in community residential services.
- **Provide** resources to establish and advance comprehensive bias training and technical assistance to law enforcement in engaging, protecting, and serving all people with I/DD.

## Invest in Successful Transitions to Adulthood

Successful outcomes include employment, participation in community life, and access to post-secondary learning opportunities. **Recommended action:**

- **Provide** funding for employment services for all eligible students with I/DD who will be exiting high school in the 2019-2021 biennium.

## 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.

**Recommended actions:**

- **Require** the development of state regulations for adult family homes specific to serving people with I/DD. Existing regulations inhibit the development of this important housing option.
- **Significantly invest** in the Housing Trust Fund, including a Developmental Disabilities set-aside, and other revenue options for local communities to increase housing supply appropriate for people with disabilities and their families.

The board thanks the Legislature for its continued support for children with developmental delays or disabilities, individuals with I/DD, and their families. Thank you for providing support to the approximately 47 individuals who want to leave the Residential Habilitation Centers. When any legislation is developed and reviewed, we ask that you use a racial and social justice approach to eliminate disparities and ensure cultural and language supports are in place to serve King County's diverse population.

For additional information, please contact

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## ***The King County Board for Developmental Disabilities Also Supports These Issues:***

### **Protect Washington's Employment First Policy and Maintain Employment Funding**

This policy states that everyone, regardless of support needs or disability, is employable with the right supports.

### **End the Exemption for Subminimum Wages**

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

### **Eliminate Income Limits for the Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities Program**

There is a need to address increasing income of workers with disabilities impacted by increases in minimum wages. Eliminating limits on earned and unearned income for buying into the Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities program will allow people to work to their potential, and keep essential Medicaid supports such as personal care, employment, and housing services.

### **Develop Resources for Benefits Planning Services**

Individuals on public benefits, including cash, medical, housing and food, need information to understand their benefits and the associated work incentives they may access in sustaining essential benefits while increasing wages. The development of a benefits planner network in King County and across the state is needed to provide professionals to assist individuals in accessing this information.

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