



### **Action Request**

**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.**

#### **A Lack of Capacity**

The Medicaid Core Waiver program is designed for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) who need residential support and who are at immediate risk of institutional placement, or who have an identified health and welfare need for services that cannot be met by the Medicaid Basic Plus Waiver program. Currently, the Core Waiver serves 4,570 individuals including 81 children.<sup>1</sup> The number of available Core Waiver placements is limited and is dependent on funding from the legislature.

#### **Residential and Specialized Support**

The Core Waiver is most used by people with significant support needs and for whom a placement with family is not viable. Enrollees in the Core Waiver program may have intensive medical needs, challenging behavior, or specialized communication needs and require specialized support.

#### **Young Adults and Older Adults with I/DD Facing Crisis**

Most people with I/DD live with and are cared for by their parents, including individuals with significant support needs. In July 2018, 71 percent or 33,808 of the individuals enrolled in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) system lived with and received care and support from their parents or relatives.<sup>2</sup>

Families need safe, community-based living options for children, teens and adults who are experiencing self-injurious and aggressive behavior. These individuals cannot live safely with family and are at risk for institutionalization.

Families also need safe, community-based living options for older adults with I/DD living with aging parents and family members. There are more than 2,300 adults enrolled in DDA's service system over the age of 40 who live with and receive support from aging parents.<sup>3</sup> Of this number, the average age of their parents is between 85 and 90 years old.

#### **Safety and the Right Support**

Adding slots to the Core Waiver could help children, teens and adults who cannot live safely with family and are at risk for institutionalization. Increasing the Core Waiver capacity will also provide support for DSHS/DDA clients over age 60 who can no longer live safely with aging family members and who are at immediate risk of institutional placement. The state should continue to monitor no-paid service caseloads and requests for waiver changes to plan for future capacity needs.

**Increasing the Core Waiver capacity will ensure individuals facing crisis can receive appropriate community-based placements.**

<sup>1</sup> DSHS/DDA CARE System on July 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> DSHS/DDA data from May 2018, provided by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council.