



Action Request

Maintain current eligibility criteria for state Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) paid services to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) continue to access Medicaid State Plan and Waiver services including employment, community inclusion, respite, personal care, and residential services.

Proposed Cuts Would Cause Thousands of People with Disabilities to Lose Essential Services

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact, DDA has proposed changes to eligibility criteria to reduce the number of individuals receiving DDA paid services statewide. These essential services, including employment, community inclusion, respite, personal care, and residential services are needed to help people live and work in the community.

If eligibility criteria for paid DDA services change as proposed, one-quarter of people on current caseloads would lose all services (approximately 2,200 in King County, or 8,100 statewide).¹ This would mean over one-third of the individuals statewide would be at risk of losing employment and community inclusion services (approximately 800 people in King County, or 2,900 statewide). In addition, over 1,000 individuals statewide could lose Supported Living services.

Many individuals with I/DD receiving DDA services also receive services through Aging, Long-Term Services Administration (AL TSA). AL TSA has proposed cuts to reduce the number of individuals receiving services statewide, including 300 individuals with I/DD living in Adult Family Homes.²

¹ DDA Proposed 2021-23 Decision Package.

² AL TSA Proposed 2021-23 Decision Package.

Additional Impacts from Proposed Cuts

Changing eligibility to reduce access to DDA services may cause a ripple effect where people with I/DD could lose their jobs, housing, and other essential supports. The changes could also decrease their ability to achieve full, integrated and productive participation in community life. These outcomes may result in significant pressure on other safety net service systems and may lead to increased health care costs and hospitalizations.

Cuts Now Would Harm Provider System Recovery

When compared state-to-state, Washington ranks 41st in spending for I/DD services.³ Destabilizing DDA's already underfunded system through eligibility changes would make it impossible for some current I/DD service providers to survive and could result in the loss of providers. This would present added challenges for future recovery of the I/DD support system.

Maintain current eligibility criteria for State DDA services to ensure continued access to programs and supports that people with I/DD need to maintain employment, housing, and health.

³ Braddock, D., Hemp, R., Tanis, E.S., et al.(2017).*The State of the States in Intellectual Disabilities:2017*