

# Informing Families

## *Building Trust*

A Partnership for Better Communication  
on Developmental Disabilities Issues in Washington State

### WAIT...THERE'S MORE

#### *Why applying for eligibility to the Division of Developmental Disabilities is a good idea*

There's a good chance you've heard lots of reasons for not applying to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)... *no funding, no services, long waiting lists*. While some of these situations may be true at one time or another, there are many more reasons why it's a good idea to apply for DDD eligibility.



#### **1. Entering the DDD may system lead to other opportunities.**

- *Medicaid Personal Care*. MPC provides in-home services to assist with daily needs, such as bathing, toileting, cooking and eating. Although DDD eligibility is not a requirement, DDD can help determine MPC eligibility and refer for service if eligible.
- *The Developmental Disabilities Life Opportunities Trust*. DDLOT is a special needs trust that allows saving for the future without jeopardizing government benefits. It's only available to DDD eligible individuals. Visit [www.ddlot.org](http://www.ddlot.org) for more information.
- *Affordable housing*. DDD eligibility is tied to some unique opportunities for affordable housing for adults, as well as families with DDD eligible children. For information about affordable housing options contact your local housing authority.

**2. DDD eligible individuals who are not receiving paid services receive valuable information and updates on services and resources** through a yearly mailing from *Informing Families, Building Trust*.

**3. Eligibility puts you a step ahead** in the event there's a crisis and your family member needs more support than what you're able to provide. Even if you don't experience a crisis, s/he is already in line for services if funding becomes available.

**4. Documenting unmet need helps everyone.** When you apply for services and are denied due to lack of funding, you provide data that gives the state a true picture of the numbers of eligible people with unmet needs. This helps advocates make a case to the legislature for the necessary funding.

#### How Do Waiting Lists Work?

Funding for new enrollments in non-entitlement programs depends on the legislature, which means the length of wait is can be long and frustrating; however, for all the reasons we've shared, it's important to obtain DDD eligibility and request the services your family member needs.

Depending on the type of service you request, openings are filled by *date of request or level of need*.

Individual and Family Services openings are filled according to the date you make a request. Access to emergency IFS funding is only available to DDD eligible clients on this waitlist.

Home and Community-Based Waiver openings are filled according to level of need and other factors. Individuals who request a waiver service are placed on a *Waiver Enrollment Database*.

Visit [dshs.wa.gov/ddd](http://dshs.wa.gov/ddd) for more information on DDD eligibility.