



Informing Families

Today and Tomorrow

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

Understanding the Individual & Family Services (IFS) Waiver

Recreational Programs and Respite in the Community

The new Individual & Family Services (IFS) waiver brings some basic changes for families who have used the old IFS program to pay for recreational and therapeutic programs offered by local community organizations:

1. Waiver IFS now covers services by contracted Community Respite providers only. Tuition and fees are not covered and there are no reimbursements to parents.
2. If you want the state to pay for a community recreational or therapeutic program, the program must have a Community Respite contract with DDA. Please ask the program to contact DDA to obtain the appropriate contract or for further information.



Old IFS Program

- Recreational fees and tuition are covered.
- Person or family pays the program fee. DDA reimburses.
- Camp or program has a Recreational Opportunity Contract.

New IFS Waiver

- Fees and tuition are NOT covered, but hours of respite provided by the program are.
- Cost of pre-approved service is paid directly to the provider.
- Provider must have a Community Respite Contract.



What to Do

If your son/daughter is on the IFS waiver and you would like to use respite in a community setting, such as a recreational or therapeutic program:

- ▶ **Ask your community recreational or therapeutic program** if they have a Community Respite contract with DDA. This is different from a Recreational Opportunity contract used under the old IFS program.
- ▶ **If they DO NOT have a Community Respite contract**, or if they have a Recreational Opportunity Contract used under the old IFS program:
 - ask them to consider becoming a Community Respite provider;
 - give them the attached bulletin which explains how Respite in the Community works, and who to call for information on becoming a provider.
- ▶ **If they DO have a contract to provide respite**, contact your son/daughter's DDA case manager and ask for pre-approval. Pre-approval is REQUIRED by DDA, and will assure the community program that payment will be made.