

Informing Families *...Today and Tomorrow*

A project of the Washington State DD Council



Changes are Here!

Two New Programs Bring Funding and Services for Thousands on the No Paid Services Caseload

We've been talking about it for more than a year, and it's finally here: two new programs and open enrollment for thousands of individuals on the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) No Paid Services Caseload (NPS).



This good news comes with big changes to existing services through the launch of the Individual and Family Services (IFS) Waiver and a new home for personal care and other services called Community First Choice (CFC).

Over the last two years, DDA enrolled more than 2,500 clients onto the IFS program; now that the program has become a waiver, the Legislature has given DDA the authority to enroll another 4,000 individuals.

If you are in need of an IFS service, be sure to contact your local DDA No Paid Services line and leave a message with your name and the type of service your family member needs. (See inside for more details.)

CFC is the new home for personal care, as well as a number of additional services (see inside for details). Many individuals on the NPS caseload are likely eligible for this program and may not know it. CFC is an entitlement program, so there is no waiting for services if an individual is eligible.

In addition, DDA has new funding for 2015-16 high school graduates who want to work (see side bar).

If you have questions about these or other services, please visit informingfamilies.org for more news and information as it happens. Our website has a brand new look to help you navigate and plan for every stage of life.



Sincerely,

 Ed Holen, Director
 Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

New Employment Funding for High School Grads



There's good news for 2015-16 high school transition graduates. The budget for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) includes new employment funding for high school transition graduates who:

- were born between September 1, 1993 and August 31, 1995;
- want to work;
- are not on a Home and Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS), but would like to be; and,
- are functionally and financially eligible for CFC personal care services.

Anyone who meets these criteria (and who requests the service) will be placed on the HCBS Basic Plus waiver and begin receiving long-term employment services from DDA*.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Individual Supported Employment: discovery (identifying interests, strengths, needs), assessment, job preparation, job placement & coaching.

Group Supported Employment: supervised employment for groups of no more than 8 workers with disabilities in the same setting.

*Note: Employment services from DDA are not available until after the individual turns 21 and has graduated from high school.

Individual & Family Services: Out with the Old, In with the New

It's official. After more than a year of planning, the new Individual & Family Services (IFS) Waiver has been approved by the federal government.

The Legislature has approved funding for up to 4,000 clients on the No Paid Services (NPS) caseload to be enrolled in the IFS Waiver. DDA is in the process of contacting individuals on the NPS caseload who have requested IFS services. Meanwhile, clients currently on the state-only IFS program will begin transitioning to the new waiver at their annual assessment



Because IFS is now a Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver, there are some differences in the services, as well as how the services are accessed.

APPROVED IFS WAIVER SERVICES*

Assistive Technology
 Behavior Support & Consultation
 Behavioral Health Stabilization
Community Engagement (new)
 Environmental & Vehicle Modifications
Peer Mentoring (new)
Person Centered Planning Facilitation (new)
 PT, OT, Speech, Hearing & Language Services
 Respite Care
 Sexual Deviancy Evaluation
 Skilled Nursing
 Specialized Medical Equipment & Supplies
 Staff/Family Consultation & Training
Supportive Parenting Services (new)
 Therapeutic Equipment & Supplies
 Transportation (non-Medicaid Broker)

*find the full list at: informingfamilies.org/ifs-waiver-services

CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Providing services under a federal waiver comes with some big changes, as well as new opportunities.

Changes:

- The IFS Waiver does not provide reimbursements or cover medical co-pays.
- All providers must be contracted by DSHS to provide services.

Opportunities:

- Clients on the IFS Waiver will be eligible for Apple Health/Medicaid health care, regardless of family income.
- New services have been added, such as Community Engagement, Peer Mentoring, Person Centered Planning Facilitation, and Supportive Parenting.

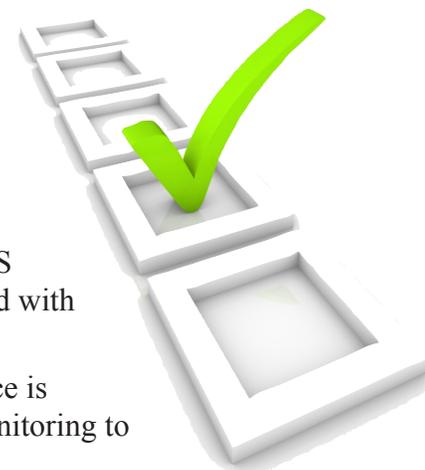
ACCESSING IFS WAIVER SERVICES

If you are on the No Paid Services Caseload and have a need that could be met by the IFS waiver, contact DDA to request IFS services. There's currently funding for new enrollments through June 2017. So, if you have a need that could be met by the IFS Waiver, contact DDA to request IFS services.

Identify the service(s) during your annual person-centered service planning meeting. The service(s) will be approved within your annual funding allotment. Funding levels are the same as the old IFS program.

Identify a contracted provider. Unlike the old program, all services under the IFS Waiver must be provided by an individual, agency or organization that's contracted with DDA to provide the service.

Contact your DDA case manager if your needs change. In addition, if the service is intermittent (not monthly), your DDA case manager will provide check-in and monitoring to ensure that service needs are being met.



Community First Choice: Personal Care and More

Another big change that's been in the works for more than a year has recently been put into place. Effective July 1st, 2015, nearly everyone who had been receiving personal care through a waiver or Medicaid Personal Care (MPC) is now receiving personal care through a new Medicaid State Plan service called Community First Choice (CFC).

To qualify for CFC, an individual must meet functional and financial eligibility when the person applies. When you apply to DDA to be determined eligible, they will provide you with the necessary forms and information you need to fill out an application step-by-step. Most adults with developmental disabilities are financially eligible, and in the case of children, their family income is considered unless they are on a waiver and then it is only the child's income.



Core CFC Services & Benefits

Personal Care

Assistance, supervision and/or cuing with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), such as bathing, bed mobility, body care, medication management, eating, dressing, personal hygiene, use of toilet, and transfers; Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs), such as meal preparation, ordinary housework, essential shopping, and travel to medical services; and health-related tasks.



Relief Care

Allows the individual to hire alternate personal care providers.

Nurse Delegation

A licensed registered nurse assigns specific nursing task(s) to a certified person to perform under the nurse's direction and supervision.

Skills Acquisition Training

ADLs, IADLs, and health-related skills training to help the individual gain independence in those areas. Skills acquisition can be accessed through personal care hours or purchased as an enhanced service.

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

A basic electronic device that enables participants to secure help in an emergency.

Caregiver Management Training

Individuals will be offered the opportunity to receive training materials on how to select, manage, and dismiss their care providers. Training will be available in booklet, DVD, and web-based formats to both participants and their chosen representatives.

*number of service credits/hours based on assessment

Enhanced CFC Benefits*



Assistive Technology

Devices and apps that increase the individual's independence. Includes specialized add-ons to the basic PERS system such as fall detectors, medication reminders, and GPS locators to those who qualify.

Additional Skills Acquisition Training

May be purchased along with, or instead of, assistive technology.

Community Transition Services

Rent and utility deposits, bedding, basic kitchen supplies, and other expenses related to transitioning from a long term care facility (such as nursing home, hospital or RHC) to a person's own home in the community.

*\$500 annual limit for Assistive Technology and additional Skills Acquisition Training (combined).

*\$850 one time expenditure for Community Transition Services.

To request services, call the No Paid Services Line in your area:

Region 1

Spokane: 800-319-7116
Yakima: 866-715-3646

Region 2

Seattle: 800-974-4428
Everett: 800-567-5582

Region 3

Tacoma: 800-735-6740
Olympia: 888-707-1202



Tech Tips: Personal Emergency Response Systems

Personal emergency response systems (PERS) allow a person to call for help pressing a button on a small device (worn or carried on the person) that connects to a monitor or call center. Once alerted, the monitor then calls the contacts and emergency services listed in the caller's profile.



Cost: There's a wide range of pricing plans for the device and monthly service fee. Be sure to compare services and prices before signing on the dotted line and avoid locking into an agreement.

In addition to offering basic PERS service, some companies provide extras (such as check-in calls, wake-up calls, medication reminders, and language translation) for an additional cost.

Research and Compare: The quality of the PERS depends a lot on the responsiveness of the monitoring center. As with any service or product, there are good, fair and poor PERS providers. Do your research. For a list of 10 questions to ask, visit: theseniorlist.com/tag/medical-alert-systems-2

Note: PERS is intended for persons who are able to activate the signal and who do not have dementia.

AT Resources

finding, funding, and purchasing devices, apps and services

AbleData

A database for unbiased, comprehensive information on AT devices and apps.

www.abledata.com

Technology for Long-Term Care

An initiative by the Department of Health and Human Services to address barriers to bringing new technologies into residential care settings

www.techforltc.org

Washington Access Fund

Low interest loans and matched savings accounts for low-income households.

www.washingtonaccessfund.org



Washington Assistive Technology Act Program

Information, referrals, training and device loans. www.watap.org