



Spring 2022 Newsletter

A project of the Washington State DD Council



Informing Families
Today and Tomorrow

This Spring, we have reason to be hopeful as Covid restrictions lift and we are able to fully engage with the world. We have just come off a monumental legislative session that promises more resources and services to enhance the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. As we move forward, we will be welcoming new people and new ideas that will inspire new ways to reform the system in future. However, no matter the change, the one constant is all of you. Informing Families exists to give you information to have more power over your lives and future. As you read this newsletter and use

resources provided by this project, please know we want to hear from you. We want your stories. We want to know what information is meaningful to you. We want to know how to make this resource an essential part of your lives as you work to advocate for yourselves and your families.

Brian Dahl
Interim Director, WA State DD Council

2022 Legislative Session: The Results are in!

The 2022 legislature adjourned in March of 2022. The Senate Bill 5693, which covers the 2022 operating budget was submitted to Gov. Jay Inslee for signature. This year's budget and bills will open the opportunity to rebuild the service delivery system throughout our state. The budget highlights from 2022 include:

Concurrent Services: Funding which removes prohibition on eligible DDA clients access employment service and community inclusion services concurrently.

Community Supports for Children: Funding to provide expansion on Intensive Habilitation Services (IHS) options for youth ages 8 to 21 who are DDA clients.

Enhanced Case Management Program: Funding to expand access to Enhanced Case Management Program (ECMP) from 700 to 1,500 clients in 2023.



DDA No Paid Caseload: Senate Bill 5819 will require the DDA to hire two permanent staff members to regular review and maintain the no paid service case load and provide case management service to individuals on no paid service case-load. They will be able to discuss and assess client's needs and explain service options available to individuals.

The Value and Importance of Recreation and Leisure



Changes in the weather for this upcoming spring and summer are opening the possibilities for new activities. The season brings outdoor sports, camp activities, swimming and more. With the excitement come questions for parents with children with disabilities. These types of activities open the search to find programs and places that can accommodate specific needs.

Why is recreation important?

Recreation adds social, emotional and physical value to an individual's life. It can increase self-esteem, teach new social skills and enrich quality of life. Recreation is a way to provide leisure activities in an individual's life which can help reduce stress and encourage happiness in an individual's everyday life.

Participating in recreation can increase an individual's sense of well-being. It can be a way to empower an individual's self-confidence and independence. Throughout Washington state some organizations offer inclusive recreational activities or programs designed for those with IDD. View the resources below for a few of these programs that may be available for you.

ACCESSIBLE RECREATION RESOURCES FOR ALL

- <https://washingtonautismalliance.org/training/recreation/>
- <https://outdoorsforall.org/>
- <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/for-people-with-disabilities>
- <http://www.seattleadaptivesports.org/>
- <https://arcofkingcounty.org/resource-guide/activities-recreation/overview.html>
- <https://my.spokanecity.org/recreation/therapeutic/>

Not interested in a program? Check out some of the beautiful ADA state parks throughout Washington state at <https://www.parks.wa.gov/156/ADA-Recreation>. You can enjoy hiking, walking, fishing and more at many of the parks!



This year's Community Summit began on May 5th, 2022.

It is not too late to join this year's Community Summit! The event is an annual event that highlights and focuses on the issues for and surrounding people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year's event is free and is being held online, with weekly sessions in May and June. The Community Summit features speakers on activism, person-centered planning, community building, and more!

To learn more about the event and to register visit <https://www.facebook.com/thecommunitysummit/>

Waiver Spots are Still Available!

DDA has five HCBS waiver programs: Individual Family Services, Basic Plus, CORE, CIIBS and Community Protection Waivers.

Each of these waiver programs are designed to serve a specific group of individuals based on their assessed needs. Waivers offer a variety of community-based services for individuals who may be eligible.

If you or a family member is a client of DDA, they (or a legal representative) can request a waiver program at any time. If an individual

is already receiving a waiver service but that specific waiver is not meeting their specific needs, they are able to request for a different waiver.

Resources

General Information and Service Request Form:

www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/consumers-and-families/home-and-community-based-waivers-hcbs

Hands On-Learning Opportunities with Job Preparations: Skill Centers in Washington State

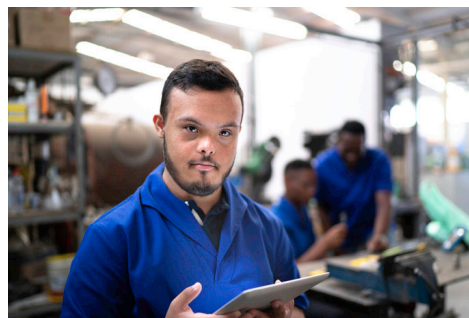
Are you a student or guardian of student about to become a junior or senior? Washington state Skill Centers may be a great option for education.

Skill Centers throughout Washington state prepare high school juniors and seniors for vocational careers in a wide variety of fields. These centers provide students with hands-on training, this is a great option for students who thrive in non-traditional learning environments and one-on-one teaching.

The Skill Centers education is provided as an extension of a student's day with about an extra two and half hours. With 14 regional Skill Centers across the state your student can receive hands on-learning opportunities and job preparation.

Skill Centers and the IEP

If you are a student or guardian of a student, contact your regional Skill Center and ask to schedule a visit. If you feel this is a beneficial opportunity you can invite a representative from a Skill Center to be a part of your next IEP meeting. If your IEP team decides that Skill Centers are a good placement for your student, the home high school will include Skill Center training in your IEP.



To learn more visit <https://www.washingtonskillscenters.org/>

What are No Paid Services?

Individuals on the Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) No Paid Services (NPS) caseload are DDA eligible clients who are not receiving any paid services from DDA.

Anyone who is DDA eligible can ask to talk to a DDA case manager to discuss service options.

Applying for DDA eligibility and requesting DDA services are two separate processes. If it is determined you are DDA eligible, you must contact DDA to request services.

To request services, visit dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request for a list of local NPS toll-free numbers and online request forms. You can also fill out an online form at the link above.

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration
P.O. Box 45310
Olympia, WA 98504-5310



Get Connected!

Learn about inclusive resources and events in your local community from other families throughout the state! The Parent to Parent (P2P) chapters located throughout Washington are a great resource to learn about events and opportunities happening! To learn more visit arcwa.org/parent-to-parent/



DDA News and Information

Get instant updates from the
Developmental Disabilities
Administration:

- News and Announcements
- Provider Information
- Resources
- Training and Events!

How to Sign Up:

- Text "DDA" to 468311
- Visit dshs.wa.gov/dda and then scroll down the home page and click on the GovDelivery envelope and sign up link for news and information.