



**Informing Families**  
*Today and Tomorrow*

*A project of the Washington DD Council*

**Fall 2022**

## Meet Brandi Monts!

*The new Executive Director of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council:*

**Hello everyone!** I am writing to you during my first full week as the Executive Director of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC). Please know how honored and excited I am to introduce myself and get to work! To save space and time, please read more about my background and the DDC's efforts on our webpage [here](#). I have long valued and viewed the DDC as a potential change maker, both through the development of new ideas and also for the persistence shown to finding solutions to ongoing barriers that our developmental disabilities community faces. These last few years have provided so many changes and challenges. As we come through the pandemic, I am hopeful about the possibilities for increased inclusion, access and leadership in our state.

For example, technology and remote work has increased many people's participation and contributions in their local and statewide communities. We can better identify and target the gaps in our systems. Families are informing, advocating and building relationships with many of our newly elected officials. Opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing across communities is becoming more common. These are a few of the reasons I am so motivated and excited to join the DDC at this moment in time. I know I will be meeting many of you over the coming weeks and months. Please don't hesitate to reach out in the meantime. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve our state and community.

Sincerely,  
**Brandi Monts**  
*Executive Director, DDC*



## Resource for Families and Individuals

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration, the Arc of Washington and others have collaborated to create a [Community of Practice](#) resource pocket folder.

This folder has useful resource information for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

To learn more about how to request this folder visit:  
<https://informingfamilies.org/topic/resource-folder/>



# Changes in DDA Enrollment Criteria

## *The SSHB 2008 Bill*

**T**his past legislative session, the Washington state legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill 2008. This legislation ends the use of intelligence quotient testing to enroll with the Department of Social and Health Services' Developmental Disabilities Administration. This change will take effect July 1st, 2025.

This change may help more people enroll with DDA, which is the first step towards services. Service eligibility will still depend on meeting eligibility requirements for the service requested. DDA services help people live in the community

and be as independent as possible. Some of the services include personal care, respite for caregivers, skill building, community engagement and inclusion and support to find and maintain a job.

***What can you expect?*** DDA is working to modify eligibility criteria which will include opportunities for stakeholder input. People who are made eligible using intelligence quotient testing now will not have a loss of eligibility due to changes in the eligibility criteria coming in 2025.



## **WAIVER SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE!**

The Developmental Disabilities Administration offers five Home and Community Based Waivers: Individual Family Services (IFS), Basic Plus, Core, Children's Intensive In-Home Behavior Supports (CIIBS) and Community Protection.

Each of the five waivers provides an array of services tailored to the specific populations they serve. Waiver services provide additional support when Medicaid state plan services and other supports are not sufficient. DDA waivers offer a variety of services such as supported employment, assistive technology, remote supports, respite for the caregiver, habilitation, community engagement and community inclusion.

If you or a family member is enrolled with DDA they can request a waiver program at any time. If the individual is already receiving a waiver service but that specific waiver is not meeting

their assessed needs, they may request a different waiver. For more information about the waiver program, go to the Services and Information Request form, contact your Case Resource Manager, Social Worker, or regional

**For detailed information about all DDA services, please visit the [Informing Families Website](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/consumers-and-families/home-and-community-based-waivers-hcbs).**



### **Looking for more information?**

Visit

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

for general information and Service/Requests forms.

# Good News for DDA's No-Paid Services Caseload (That's you!)

By Gavin Rose, DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration Service Request and Referral Program Manager

## What's Happening?

The Developmental Disabilities Administration has received funding to hire case managers for almost every person enrolled with DDA. If you are on DDA's No-Paid Services caseload, this includes you.

It is the first time in more than a decade that we have been able to offer case management to people who aren't receiving a paid service from us, and we're really excited. Our goal is to make sure each one of you know about our services, even if you're not quite ready to ask for them. We also have information to share about local resources that you might not know about.

## What to Expect

As case managers are phased in, you will begin receiving letters with the contact information for your new case manager.

Each case manager will make annual outreach phone calls to:

- Give you referrals to local resources and informal supports
- Schedule an assessment for paid services if you're ready to request them

You can also contact your case manager at any time to ask about services or if you have a need that's changed. If you still aren't ready, your case manager will make sure that you know how to ask for services at any time in the future.

Case Managers can point the way to non-DDA services as well, such as:

- Section 8 or other public housing applications
- Rental assistance
- Apple Health Insurance Care Coordinator (for medical and behavioral health)
- Public benefits, such as food or cash assistance
- Childcare subsidy programs
- Food and clothing bank locations

You can also request a paid service such as Community Engagement to connect with local

community and supports that help people with developmental disabilities participate, engage, and be part of the community. Community Engagement is available to people enrolled on the Basic Plus, Core for clients not receiving residential services, and Individual and Family Services Waivers, and is just one of many DDA service options that you can request.

## What's Next

You may receive a call from an outreach worker who is not a case manager. They will ask about your needs, discuss DDA services, make sure your contact information is correct, and ask if you would like to request paid services now, or within a year.

The outreach calls help us understand the needs of those who aren't receiving a service, which helps with resource planning and training. We look forward to connecting with you about supports to help you live the life you want.

## How to Get Started Right Now

There's no need to wait to hear from a DDA case manager to ask for what you need. You can request services now by filling out a service request online: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request>, contacting your local office: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/find-dda-office>, or by contacting the number listed for your county below:

| CALL TO REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY YOU LIVE IN  | PHONE          |
|---|----------------|
| Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens                                     | (800) 319-7116 |
| Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima | (866) 715-3646 |
| Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom  | (800) 567-5582 |
| King  | (800) 974-4428 |
| Kitsap, Pierce  | (800) 735-6740 |
| Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum        | (888) 707-1202 |



**Community Engagement Services** are developed to provide creative, flexible, and supportive community resources and relationships. This service is available to clients enrolled on the HCBS waivers (Basic Plus, Core, and Individual and Family Services). Community

Engagement is designed to increase an individual's access to their local community and build relationships. The community engagement services will help connect individuals to resources in their local community and support them to engage in activities.

*What will a Community Engagement provider do?* Once an individual chooses a Community Engagement provider, they will meet to discuss the goals stated in the Person-Centered Service Plan developed by the client and case manager. Community Engagement providers will assist individuals to develop strategies to connect with community resources based on specific interests and needs.

To learn more visit <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/adsaapps/about/factsheets/DDA/Community%20Engagement.pdf>.



Individuals enrolled with Developmental Disabilities Administration will sign many documents. DDA now offers a variety of options to sign these documents. It is important for individuals and/or their authorized signers to know and understand the available signing options. This allows the signer to find the best and most useful option for them!

**Adobe E-Signature** – this electronic signature option allows you to sign some of your DDA documents, including your Person-Centered Service Plan, through email. If you have an email address and access to a computer or smart device, this may be a good option for you.

**Voice Signature** – this telephonic signature option allows you to approve your Person-Centered Service Plan over the phone on a recorded line. If you communicate with spoken words and can be reached by phone, this may be a good option for you.

DDA will still accept written signatures and other electronic signatures, like Adobe Fill & Sign. How you sign your DDA documents is your choice! If you have questions or would like more information about your signature options, please reach out to your DDA case manager.

## Are you or someone you know looking for a new and rewarding career?

Becoming a professional provider for DDA may be for you. Working with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) will give you an opportunity to build meaningful relationships and improve the lives of others by supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their homes and out in the community.

Visit

<https://informingfamilies.org/dda-find-a-new-and-rewarding-career/>

to learn more about job opportunities and application information.



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

## Mental Health Resources

### **Washington Warm Line**

A peer support help line for people living with emotional and mental health challenges. Calls are answered by specially-trained volunteers who have lived experience with mental health challenges. They have a deep understanding of what you are going through. All calls are confidential. Call 877-500- WARM (877-500-9276)

### **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

You can call, text, or chat 988 to be connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL). This service is free and confidential. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.



### **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](https://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.