



Informing Families
Today and Tomorrow

Spring is here and we are anticipating great things to come! Here are the highlights...

At the Informing Families Building Trust program, we are excited to share a new accessibility tool we have added to our website that allows users to customize their experience. For example, the tool will change the website font size, translate content in 20+ languages, read content aloud and offer several other features to our visitors. Look for the blue *Accessibility and Language* button on the top right corner of our [website](#) to test drive the tool. Please send us your feedback and suggestions through the Contact Us button on the website once you try it out!

The work that has occurred so far during this year's legislative session has been huge! We have seen so many bills and budget ideas for how to strengthen and improve the lives of Washingtonians with IDD and their family members. With a focus on housing, the workforce and folks in crisis, our elected officials are working alongside many of you to present new solutions through proposed laws and funding. We are proud of the education and advocacy so many of you

have afforded those elected officials and the greater community this year. Congrats and keep watching the [Arc of Washington Advocacy Page](#) to see how our issues fare as the session wraps up near the end of April.

As we move through Spring and into Summer, we hope you and your loved ones have the chance to connect with others in our community to learn about resources, share new ideas and help each other thrive. More opportunities are becoming available as we move past the pandemic and back into in person gatherings. One great example of this is the upcoming Community Summit, offering in-person and virtual options for the first time this year. Learn more about that event [here](#).

Best,

Brandi Monts
Executive Director, DDC



Summer 2023 Resources

The warm weather and longer days are a great opportunity to spend time with friends and family. There are many programs throughout Washington state to accommodate all communities and individuals in various activities. Stay up to date with resources and information at: <https://informingfamilies.org/summer2023resourceguide/>.



Office of

**Developmental
Disabilities**

Ombuds

*How they are working improve the lives of
people with IDD in Washington*

By: Noah Seidel

The Office of the Developmental Disabilities Ombuds (DD Ombuds) is a private, independent office focused on improving the lives of persons with developmental disabilities in Washington state. Visit us at www.ddombuds.org.

Who Are We?

We work to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities of all ages by providing these services Information and Referral. If you need support, but don't know where to go, the DD Ombuds will try to provide resources to point you in the right direction.

Complaint Resolution

We work with individuals with developmental disabilities, families or legal representatives to try and resolve complaints about services. We pay

special attention to issues concerning abuse and neglect (<https://ddombuds.org/complaint-form/>).

Visit People Where They Are

We regularly visit locations where individuals are receiving services, such as private and state-run supported living, institutions, group homes, private residences, and even employment or recreation.

Improving Systems

We make recommendations to service providers, the state and the Legislature on how to improve services. We produce reports about systemic issues that we are told about by community members <https://ddombuds.org/issue-reports/>.

To learn more, watch the video below: <https://ddombuds.org/videos/> and view our brochure here: <https://ddombuds.org/dd-ombuds-brochure/>



plan services and other supports are not enough. DDA waivers offer services such as supported employment, assistive technology, respite for the caregiver, habilitation, community engagement and community inclusion.

If you or a family member enroll with DDA, you 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 office.

For detailed information about all DDA services, please visit the [Informing Families Website](#).



**Waiver Spots
are Available!**

THE DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration offers five Home and Community Based Waivers: Individual and Family Services, Basic Plus, Core, Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Supports and Community Protection.

Each of the five waivers provides services tailored to the specific populations they serve. Waiver services provide additional support when Medicaid state

DDA is Hiring and Training Case Managers for the No-Paid Services Caseload

Have you heard? DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is hiring and training new case managers for individuals on the No-Paid Services caseload. If you are enrolled with DDA but not receiving a service, this includes you!

What can you expect?

You will receive a letter in 2023 once your case manager is assigned. You can expect to hear from them once a year. DDA case managers will ask about your needs, then will give you

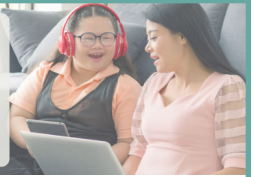
information about community resources, potential referrals, and will explain what DDA services are available. If you are interested in receiving a service, your case manager will guide you through the process.

What if you don't need anything?

DDA's services are voluntary, and you always get to decide if you want to ask for them. Your case manager will still contact you every year to discuss what services are available and to make sure you know how you can ask for services in the future. You can also contact your case manager whenever needed.

We are excited to have case managers soon to hear what you need or want to live the life you want!

Remote Supports



A new waiver service is available from the DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration!

Remote Support, a new waiver service, is like the Distance Based Observation and Reporting that was used during the COVID-19 pandemic. Remote Support provides supervision, coaching and consultation through technology devices installed in your home and through connection with your provider over video chat or similar technologies.

Remote Support is available to DDA clients on the Individual and Family Services, Basic Plus, and Core Waivers. Start by talking to your DDA case manager today!

To learn more visit <https://informingfamilies.org/remote-support-dda/>.

DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration Outreach Reminder

DDA Outreach Reminder

DDA submits a report to the Legislature every year about the No-Paid Services caseload. Most of the information in this report comes from your responses to questions we ask you when we call.

You may be invited to take a survey that will ask about your needs and your interest in receiving DDA services. Your answers help us plan for future service and training needs and informs state legislators of the service needs of people enrolled with DDA. To see the 2022 report, click here: [DDA's 2022 No-Paid Services Report to the Legislature](#).

If you have recently moved, or have a new phone number or email address, please contact your local DDA office to update your information: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/find-dda-office>. We look forward to connecting with you soon!

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

Free Resources for Families

The Arc US Future Planning

Future Planning is the process of creating a guide for an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) for all stages of life. The Arc of the United States created this program to help individuals put together a plan to organize information on all aspects of a person's life including daily routines, finances, living arrangements, and more. Visit <https://futureplanning.thearc.org/>

Life Course: Introduction to Planning Services in Washington

The Life Course plan is a free four-page pamphlet that helps you identify supports to reach goals, process to apply for Determination for DDA eligibility in Washington, description of DDA's Waiver Programs, and more. To download an electric copy or order a printed copy visit <https://informingfamilies.org/life-course-intro/>

Parent to Parent Washington State

Parents may have questions and concerns as they learn about new information and services that can help their child and family. Parents also need time and support to navigate their own emotions and adjust to raising a child with special needs. Volunteer Helping Parents are available to provide support and information. Learn more at <https://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 <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda> then scroll down the home page. Click on the GovDelivery envelope and sign up link for news and information.