

## **Association of County Human Services**

### **Developmental Disabilities Program Committee**

#### **2023 Legislative Priorities – May 6, 2022**

- 1. Ensure client access to Employment and Community Inclusion services by stabilizing the provider network through increased provider rates.**

Washington State's employment services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities have consistently been recognized as the best in the nation. The current statewide staffing shortage has impacted access to services, resulting in reduced or suspended services for many people with disabilities. Earlier this year, 64% of provider agencies statewide reported in a county survey that they were unable to take new referrals due to staffing challenges. A sustainable reimbursement rate must be implemented to recruit and retain qualified staff and deliver quality services.

- 2. Increase county administration rate for developmental disabilities services to 10%.**

The county administration rate for developmental disabilities services is currently at 7% and has been at this rate for over 30 years. The complexity and scope of work for county administered programs has significantly increased during this time period due to several factors including data security, Medicaid Provider One billing, and HIPAA compliance requirements. Additional resources are needed to improve language access and connections to culturally relevant services.

- 3. Provide Basic Plus Waiver services for State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) eligible students leaving high school in 2023-2025.**

The state should ensure access to the Basic Plus Medicaid Waiver Program by providing additional waiver slots to provide employment and other needed services for all state DDA eligible high school transition students. The state should also build on investments in special education, School-to-Work and the Job Foundation programs to improve transition outcomes for students.