

**Clark County Developmental Disability Advisory Board
Legislative Priorities and Agenda - 2026**

Maintain and protect existing funding streams – Washington State is 38th in the country in fiscal effort for Developmental Disabilities Services.

Medicaid is the primary pathway for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to access supports for daily living, employment, respite, and community inclusion. As federal funding changes and state budget pressures increase, we urge the Legislature to maintain and protect existing funding streams that ensure that people with I/DD continue to live, work, and participate fully in community life. Without these supports, people face isolation and poor health, families lose stability, taxpayers are pulled out of the workforce, and reliance on Medicaid and other safety-net programs grows.

We also ask the Legislature to adjust provider rates to reflect actual costs so people with I/DD can access services the Legislature has already funded. We further ask the Legislature to protect funding for children ages 0-5, which are critical to lifelong success, including Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) and Special Education for 3–5-year-olds.

- Implement Forecasted Budgeting as Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) is the only state agency that does not use this budget adjustment for inflation and other economic impacts.
- Emphatically support the full implementation of the Day Rate recommendations from the Report to the Legislature Employment and Day Rate Study. Support employment services for students graduating from high school and expand their access to a livable wage.
- Increase funding and access to inclusive affordable housing for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities who are more likely to have extremely low income.
- Abolish Restraint, Seclusion and Isolation in schools. Provide training and support for teachers and staff to ensure a safe learning environment for teachers and students. Make this a law in Washington State to end this practice.
- Address the needs of underserved communities. Gaps in services cause disproportionate impacts to individuals and communities related to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability status, socioeconomic level and age.
- Develop services for aging adults with I/DD who have aging caregivers or who want to change where they live. Services would include employment, housing, residential supports, transportation, access to the community, financial planning, long-term sustainable care and coordination of services. Expand access to the Family Mentor Project for individuals with aging caregivers.