



Action Request

Fund the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Employment and Day Rate Study recommendations, which includes increasing rates to stabilize provider networks to ensure community members access to services and increasing the county administration rate.

Increase access to Employment and Community Inclusion services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)

Employment services help persons with I/DD find and keep competitive jobs in the community that align with their preferences, interests, and strengths. Community Inclusion provides people with opportunities to engage in community-based activities that support socialization, education, recreation, and personal development. Community Inclusion services promote greater independence and inclusion in the community. Both services help families and individuals to create full and meaningful lives.

Ensure livable wages to recruit and retain staff

A sustainable reimbursement rate must be implemented to support the delivery of quality Employment and Community Inclusion services and to recruit and retain qualified staff. The reimbursement rate for these services has remained the same since 2011 while the cost of living has increased 20 percent over this same period.¹ With state reimbursement for Employment and Day Program services otherwise remaining stagnant, a statewide staffing shortage threatens the future of services, resulting in reduced or suspended services for many people with disabilities.

Increase Employment and Community Inclusion provider rates to stabilize the provider network

Washington State's employment services to persons with I/DD 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, a statewide survey found that 66.7 percent of provider agencies were at service capacity due to staffing challenges.²

Increase county administrative rate for developmental disabilities services to 10 percent

For the past 30 years, the county administration rate for developmental disabilities services has remained at 7 percent. During this time, the complexity and scope of work associated with county administered programs has changed significantly, to include the implementation of data security requirements, Medicaid Provider One billing, and compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Additional resources are also needed for language access and connections to culturally relevant services to support equitable service access for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities.

¹ [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2021](#)

² [Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; Employment and Day Rate Study dated October 1, 2022](#)