



### **Action Request**

Fund services for students leaving high school.

Provide Basic Plus Waiver services for Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) eligible students leaving high school in 2023-2025 to support their journey beyond school.

### **High school transition age is a critical period**

For youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), the transition out of high school can feel particularly uncertain, as they often require ongoing individual support to successfully enter adulthood as full, healthy, and contributing members of the community. Preparation, planning, and resources are necessary for students to enter adulthood prepared for post-secondary education and/or employment.

### **Build on State and King County investments in students' futures**

Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, schools serve students with I/DD during a critical transition period: age 18 through the school year students turn 21. This extra investment helps students with I/DD prepare for employment, ongoing learning, and community life. It is also when students can participate in DDA's Job Foundation program as well as the King County School-to-Work (S2W) program. Students with I/DD who have paid work experience, or leave school with a job, are over four times more likely to remain employed and be included in the community after high school.<sup>1</sup> In addition, programs such as S2W exceed job placement rates for young adults with I/DD when compared to elsewhere in the nation.<sup>2</sup> Students need long-term home and community support services that are provided under DDA's Basic Plus Waiver program to support their journey beyond school.

### **Fund Basic Plus Waiver services to support employment and health and safety needs in the community**

High school transition students with I/DD need to be added to DDA's Basic Plus Waiver program. Individual Supported Employment services for people with I/DD are only available after age 21 and require Basic Plus Waiver funding. These services are essential for students to maintain or continue seeking employment after school ends, especially for those students already served by Job Foundation and S2W. Employment services are cost effective, create a new generation of taxpayers, help establish independence, and can reduce dependency on other long-term government supports.

In addition to Individual Supported Employment, the Basic Plus Waiver offers a variety of services not available through other resources. Some of these include Community Inclusion, transportation, behavioral health, behavior support, caregiving, and necessary therapy services.<sup>3</sup> These services support people with I/DD to be healthy, included, and contributing members of the community. With Community Inclusion services now to be offered alongside Individual Supported Employment, Basic Plus Waiver funding is necessary for people with I/DD to have additional support to participate in their community.

<sup>1</sup> Center on Transition to Employment; Post-School outcomes for Transitioning Youth with Developmental Disabilities Can We Predict Integrated Employment?

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Community Inclusion (UCEDD) University of Massachusetts Boston Published 2019; State Data: The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes Through 2017

<sup>3</sup> Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; Basic Plus Waiver from the Developmental Disabilities Administration

For more information, please contact:

Michael White, Office of King County Executive / michwhite@kingcounty.gov / 206-351-1674