

BRIDGES FORWARD:

Crossing Barriers to Improved I/DD and Behavioral Health Systems in Washington

In the summer of 2025, the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (WADDC) hosted *Bridge Forward*, a free virtual four-day event with state and national leaders, people with disabilities, families, service providers, researchers, policymakers, and community partners to plan the future of intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) and behavioral health (BH) supports in Washington.

Stakeholders shared their vision for a strong and coordinated state support system, current challenges, and recommendations on how to move the I/DD and BH systems forward.

BRIDGES

Recommendations to strengthen coordination across systems.

- Improve Service Access
- Advance System Navigation
- Enhance Service Quality
- Strengthen Service Professionals
- Reduce Stigma and Raise Awareness

THE DESTINATION

Vision for a better I/DD and BH system in Washington State.

- Accessible
- Quality
- Equitable
- Responsive
- Sustainable

CURRENT LOCATION

Roadblocks in the system (barriers to people with I/DD):

- Limited & inequitable access
- Navigating services is challenging
- Fragmented IDD & BH systems
- Gaps in effective services
- Limited training & high Direct Service Provider (DSP) turnover
- Stigma, fear & misunderstanding

Download the full report at: www.ddc.wa.gov