

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

What We Heard

Results from the 5-Year State Plan Survey

1,097 people shared their ideas. They told us what matters, what gets in the way, and what the Council should work on.

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

September 2026

What is this report?

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council is called the DD Council in this report.

The DD Council makes a State Plan every five years. The plan says what work the Council will do.

The Council asked people to fill out a survey. People answered from September 2024 through August 2025.

IDD means intellectual or developmental disabilities. This report uses the short name IDD.

Who answered the survey?

People could choose more than one group. That is why these numbers add up to more than 100.

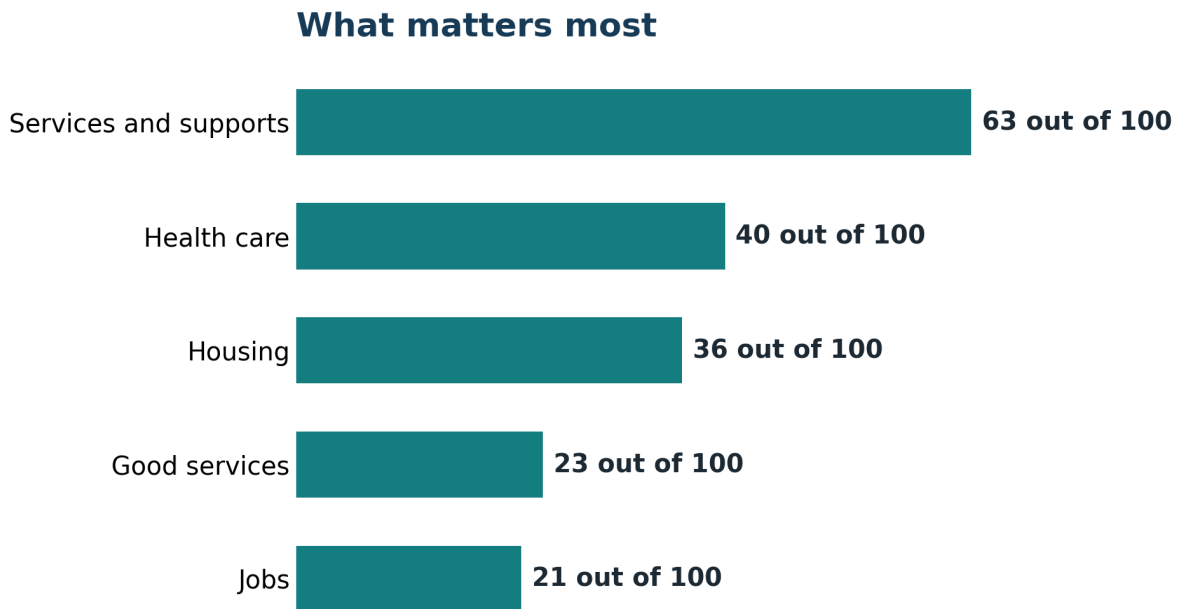
Who answered	About how many
Family members	61 out of 100
People who work in the field	33 out of 100
People with IDD	13 out of 100

Most people were age 41 or older. Most were white women. All answers in the file were in English.

This is important. The answers do not speak for every person with IDD in Washington. The Council must also listen in other ways.

What matters most?

People chose three things that were important to them.



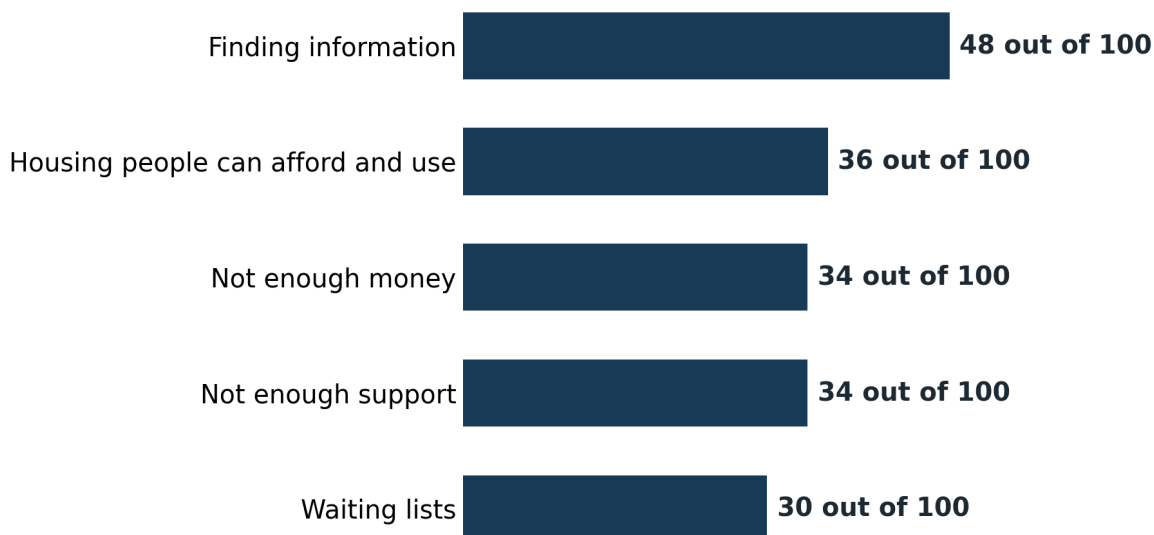
The main message People want the help they need to live a good life. They want good health care, a safe home, and a chance to work.

People also chose school, planning for the future, money, civil rights, rides, and fun things to do.

What gets in the way?

Many people said it is hard to get the help they need.

The biggest barriers



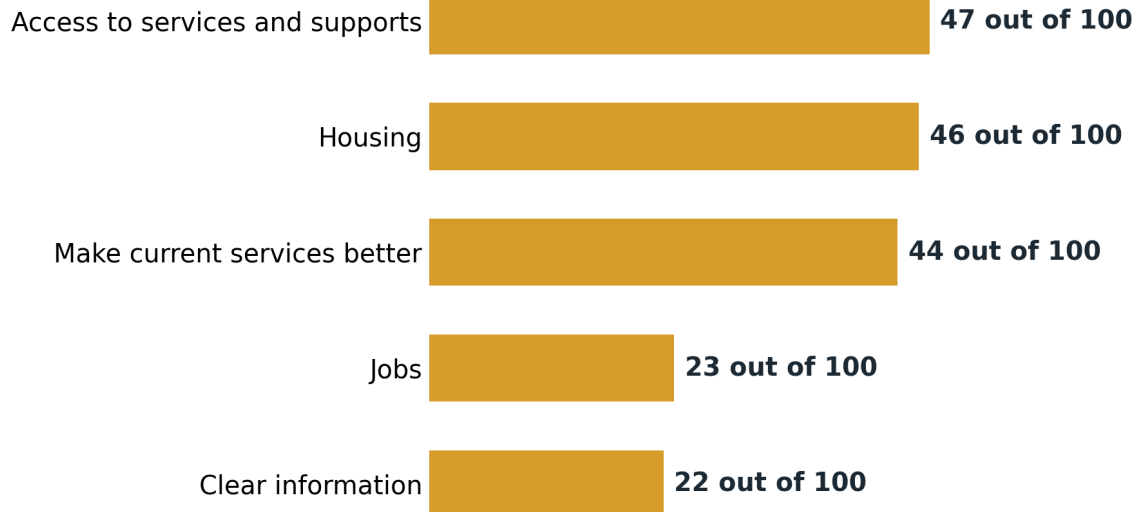
The barriers were serious. About 78 out of 100 people rated their barriers a 4 or 5 on a scale from 1 to 5.

People also had trouble with health care, rides, jobs, school help, staff, and unfair treatment.

What should the Council work on?

People chose their top three ideas for the next five years.

What the Council should work on



The top three ideas Help people get services. Help people find housing. Make services better.

People with IDD had some different views

The full survey has many answers from family members. The Council also looked at answers from people with IDD by themselves.

Housing was number one. About 58 out of 100 people with IDD chose housing as a top Council goal.

Rights were more important. About 27 out of 100 people with IDD chose self-advocacy and civil rights. About 10 out of 100 family members chose this.

Rides mattered more too. About 21 out of 100 people with IDD chose transportation. About 12 out of 100 family members chose it.

This shows why the Council must listen to people with IDD. Their answers can be different from family members and workers.

What people wrote

A total of 446 people wrote more about their lives. Many of them talked about the same needs.

- Help is hard to find. People want clear facts and a person who can guide them.
- There are not enough trained staff. Low pay and staff changes can hurt the care people get.
- People need more homes they can afford and use. They also need support to live in those homes.
- People need more help when school ends. This includes jobs, rides, friends, and things to do.
- People with IDD need better mental health care and help during a crisis.
- Older family caregivers worry about the future. They want a plan for when they can no longer give care.
- People want respect, choice, and a say in their own lives.
- People want facts they can understand. They also want language help and communication access.

What should happen next?

The survey gives the Council a clear path.

Focus on services, housing, and quality. These were the strongest needs across the survey.

Make help easier to find and use. A list of services is not enough. People may need help to apply and connect.

Listen to people with IDD. Their views must guide the work.

Plan for big life changes. Support can break down when school ends, a caregiver gets older, or a person has a crisis.

Reach people who were missed. The Council needs more input from young people, people who do not speak English, Tribal communities, and people from many races and cultures.

One survey is not enough. The Council should use these answers with public comments, meetings, and talks with people across Washington.

How the numbers work

Five survey rows had no real answers. The report did not count those rows. This left 1,097 answers to study.

Some people skipped a question. Each chart counts only the people who answered that question.

Many questions let people choose more than one answer. This is why the numbers in a chart may add up to more than 100.

The survey was open to people who wanted to take it. It was not a random survey. The results show what this group said. They do not prove what every person in Washington thinks.

Best way to use this report Use it as one strong source of ideas. Check it against other talks, meetings, public comments, and facts about programs.

Source: WADDC 5 Year State Plan Survey(1-1102) (1).xlsx