

DDC August 2025 Monthly Updates

August 6, 2025

Hi everyone,

As you all probably know, Brandi is on vacation. She asked me to send along one of the updates she regularly creates. However, before I get to those, we would like to know your ideas for our Council meeting location in **OCTOBER 2026**. Please follow the link to answer a short one-question survey [Council Meeting Location Survey October 2026](#).

Before Brandi's update, all of us on staff are working on preparations for the Council meeting in October in Port Angeles. Please keep in mind, the deadline to make changes to your participation is 30 days before the meeting, September 15, 2026. Also, if you have not yet told us your plans, please do so soon. We need accurate counts when reserving rooms, flights and meals.

Brandi's Update

- Our Bridge Forward Conference turned out very well! We had around 530 registrants across the four day event and came away with the makings for a strong report on what is possible in our State. Thanks so much to several of you who sat on our Planning Committee, shared your lived experience and your visions for how to improve these systems for our community. Please stay tuned for recordings, follow-up information, and a final report to be posted on our website in the coming months.
- The Senate passed all three of the DD Network Partners' (DDC, Disability Rights WA and UW) funding at the same or near same level as last year in the appropriations bill on 7/31/25. This is a huge win for us, considering what was being proposed when we met in April in the Tri Cities. The House now has the chance to make their changes and get the Senate to agree, then ask the President sign it. We have a ways to go, however your advocacy is working!

- Dan Thompson: The Department of Social and Health Services has been allocated \$2 million towards this program and grant opportunities during the 2025-2027 biennium.

Based on feedback from the community, this round of grant funding will focus on **recreation, transportation, and innovative technology**.

Grants are available at the following amounts:

- \$500,000
- \$250,000
- \$100,000
- \$50,000
- \$20,000

The grant application is available starting on Aug. 1, 2025, and applications can be submitted through Aug. 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

Please follow [this link to the webpage](#) to access the application template and guidance document. Download the application template and email it to applydanthompson@dshs.wa.gov to apply for a grant.

The team at DSHS will host multiple virtual technical assistance sessions via Microsoft Teams. These sessions are available for anyone in the community to learn more about the application requirements. More details about the technical assistance sessions are available on our webpage.

Please note that these grants have been highly competitive and not all applications will be selected for contract.

- Finally, we want to make sure you have seen two big advocacy efforts that our community has held this summer:
 - The DD Symposium held in June was attended by 13 different states and holds a lot of promise for a national network focused on DD issues: [Sessions and Photo Link - 2025 Developmental Disabilities Legislative Symposium](#)
 - The Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) held a planning day in July that was attended by around 50 people from across the State. Members worked on plans

Our Mission is to advocate, promote, and implement policies and practices to create pathways to meaningful, integrated, and productive lives for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities over the life course.



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for the next year together and formed new committees. We will post the results of that event when they are ready on our CAC page: [Community Advocacy Coalition for People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities](#)

Brandi will be back the middle of the week next week. In the meantime, if you need anything you may contact me or anyone on staff.

Thanks,

Brian

Brandi Monts

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