

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) advocates for better services, supports, and policies for people with developmental disabilities and their families. We collaborate with agencies, train advocates, and push for positive change through policy work and statewide initiatives. Guided by our core values of self-determination, inclusion, and independence, we work to create a more equitable future for people with IDD in Washington State.

2024 Project and Program Highlights

IDD and Behavioral Health Research Project

The 2024 report, **Enhancing Services for People with Co-Occurring IDD and Behavioral Health Needs in Washington**, highlights barriers like discrimination and service gaps. Funded by the WA State DD Council and created by the National Leadership Consortium, it offers recommendations to expand services, improve provider training, and enhance system coordination.

- Risk of institutionalization: **3 x more likely to experience institutionalization** because community-based supports were not available.
- Accessibility of Services: **Only 16% of people surveyed say their services were a “very easy” distance away.**
- In General, **1 out of 3 people are unhappy with the services** for their co-occurring needs.



Community Summit

The Community Summit is an annual event sponsored by the Council. It brings people from across the state together to:

-  Explore the history and context for key DD programs and efforts
-  Align programs with community needs, inclusion, and independence
-  Center voices of people with IDD
-  Bring diverse groups into the conversation
-  Connect families not yet engaged in advocacy

Informing Families Program FY 2024



The Informing Families (IF) program is a collaboration between the DDC, DDA and community stakeholders. IF provides information, support, and resources to families across Washington State.



New IF Initiatives:

- New coordinator position in northeastern corner of the state will increase resources and systems connections
- Cultural and linguistic resource gathering project will help to inform and connect underrepresented populations
- Project Website redesign will improve access and functionality

Advocacy Partnership Project

The Advocacy Partnership Project provides training in leadership and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities. A key feature is Advocacy Days, where participants engage with legislators to influence policies and funding. Outcomes from last fiscal year:



2025 Projects

2025 projects include a national event focused on the DD/behavioral health community, the release of our IDD/Incarceration paper and an Informing Families track inside of the Community Summit. Through these initiatives, we continue to advance policies and programs that create meaningful, lasting change for people with developmental disabilities and their families.