

Washington State DD Council – State Plan Survey Summary

Overview

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council asked community members across Washington to share their experiences, needs, and priorities. The purpose of this survey was to help guide the Council’s next five-year State Plan. The responses below reflect what people said is working, where they face challenges, and what they believe the Council should focus on.

Who Took the Survey



A total of 1103 community members from across the state responded, including people with developmental disabilities, family members, caregivers, service providers, and community partners. Responses reflect a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and lived experiences. The survey was open from January through August 2025 and responses reflect the experiences and needs shared during that time.

What We Learned

The survey asked people about what matters most to them, the barriers they experience, and which issues should be prioritized over the next five years. Charts showing overall response patterns are included below.

Important Areas Identified by Respondents

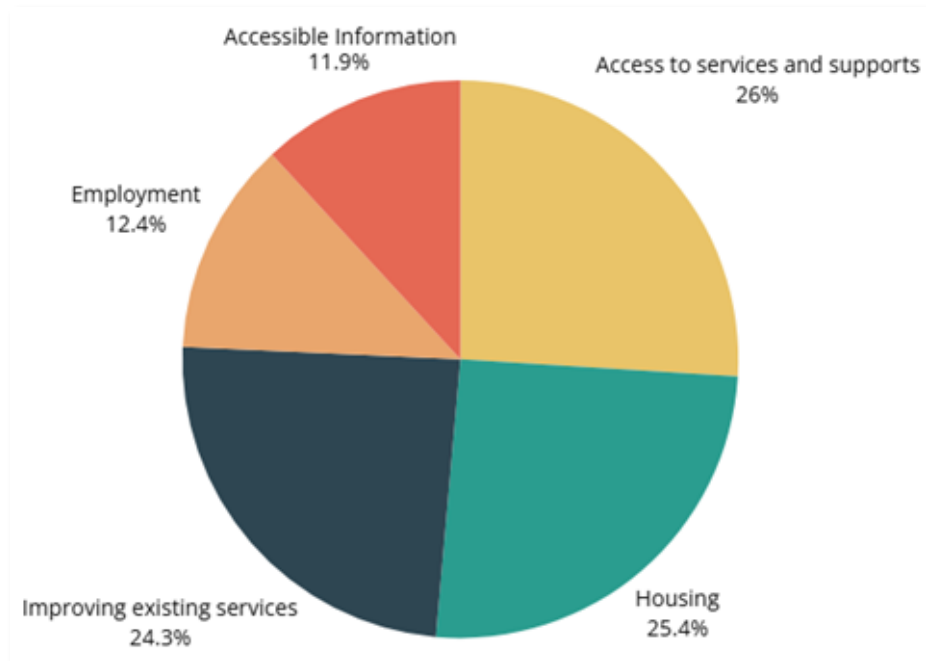
WADDC 2025 State Plan Survey Results

Supports are needed for school, recreation, childcare, afterschool clubs, and community activities — anything a nondisabled person can do, a person with a disability should be able to do.”

-Survey respondent

Respondents selected three areas they consider most important. These priorities highlight what people want to see improved or strengthened in their communities.

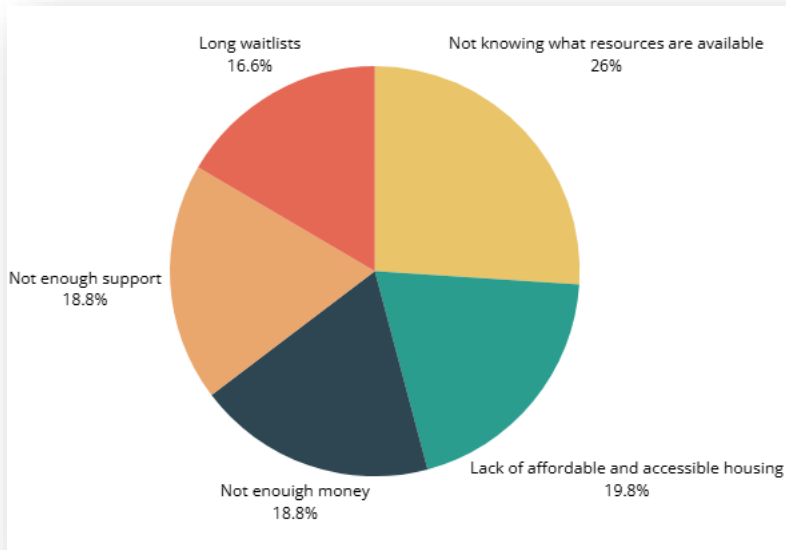
The top five areas people said were the most important were Access to Services and Supports (26%), Housing (25.4%) and Improving Existing Services (24.3%), Employment (12.4%), and Accessible Information (11.9%).



Barriers People Are Facing

“I need help myself to understand all of this and the finances to survive and feed my son and my hubby and finally myself please—I'm begging, we need help.”

-Survey respondent

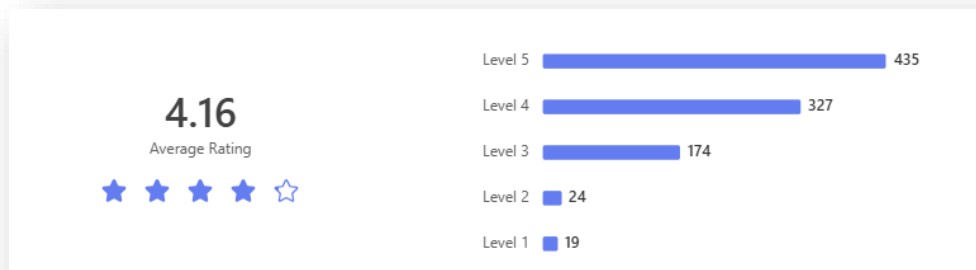


Respondents selected their top three areas where they experience barriers.

Respondents identified the main challenges that make it harder for them or their families to get the services, supports, or opportunities they need.

The top five barriers that people said were the most difficult for them were not knowing what resources are available (26%), lack of affordable and accessible housing (19.8%), not enough support (18.8%), not enough money (18.8%), and long waitlists (16.6%).

Impact of Barriers

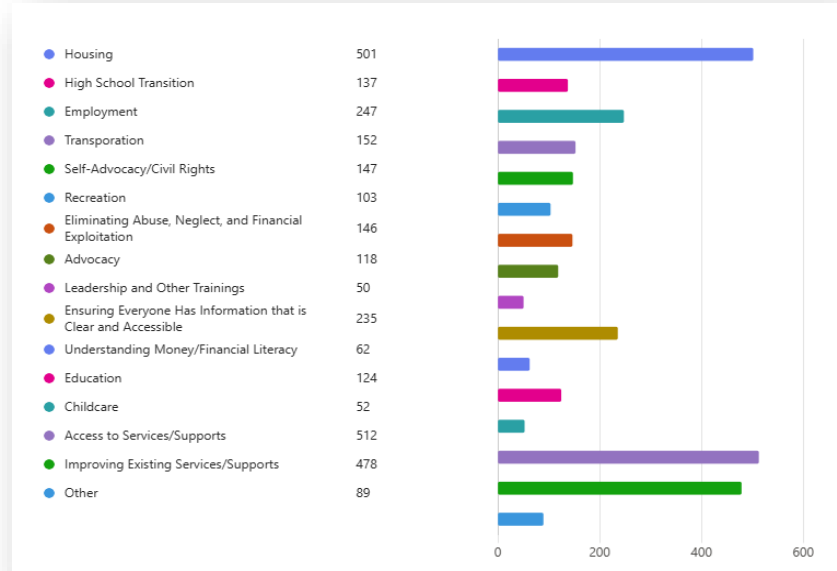


Respondents rated how strongly these barriers affect their daily lives, from “least impact” (Level 1) to “most impact” (Level 5). Higher scores show barriers that create greater hardship or limit access to needed services.

Priorities for the Next Five Years

Respondents shared what they believe the DD Council should prioritize. These themes reflect the areas where people feel the most action and support are needed moving forward.

The top five areas people said the Council should focus on were access to services and supports (25.9%), housing (25.4%), improving existing services and supports (24.2%), employment (12.5%), and ensuring everyone has clear and accessible information (11.9%)



What the DD Council Should Prioritize

What People Shared in Their Own Words

In addition to the charts and numerical results, the survey also included open-ended questions where people could share their experiences, ideas, and concerns in their own words. These comments provide important context about what community members are facing and what they hope to see change.

People who answered the survey shared many thoughts about their lives, their communities, and the services they use. Most comments focused on needing better support, more choices, and respect.

Common Themes

- **Services and Supports:** Many people said it is hard to get the help they need. They want services that are easier to understand and easier to use. Some people said they need more help at home, at work, or in the community.
- **Housing:** Finding a safe and affordable place to live is a big concern. People said there are not enough housing options for people with disabilities.
- **Employment:** A number of people want more job opportunities. They want work that pays fairly and helps them feel included.
- **Community Inclusion:** People said they want to be part of their communities, not separated. This includes being able to go to school, attend events, and join activities with everyone else.
- **Health and Mental Health:** Access to health care and mental health services is another need. People worry about long wait times, not enough providers, and not feeling listened to by doctors.
- **Equity and Respect:** Many people said they want to be treated with respect. They also want services to be fair for people of all races, cultures, and backgrounds.

Feelings Expressed

When people wrote their answers, they often showed strong feelings:

- Some people were frustrated about not getting enough support.
- Others were hopeful that the Council and partners could make things better.
- A few people showed fear or worry about the future, especially about housing and money.
- Many responses showed pride in self-advocacy and wanting to have their voices heard.

What This Means

The survey shows that people with disabilities and their families want stronger community supports, more accessible and effective services, and fair opportunities to live, work, and participate in their communities. They also want respect, inclusion, and a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their lives. This feedback will guide the Council as it develops goals, activities, and partnerships for the next five-year State Plan, ensuring the plan reflects real needs and supports positive change across Washington.