

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.

2025 Project and Program Highlights

Bridge Forward Conference



In the summer of 2025, the DDC 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 (IDD) and behavioral health (BH) supports in Washington.

- **423** people attended the conference
- **92%** said presentations were useful for advocacy in Washington
- **94%** learned more about IDD and behavioral health challenges
- **95%** felt presentations supported progress for people with IDD and BH needs

Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)



Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) is a group in Washington State led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to speak-up about important issues.

-  **260 members from across Washinton State**
-  **Members serve on 12 other statewide committees, workgroups or councils.**
-  **Hosted and engaged more than a dozen Washington State lawmakers in 2025**
-  **Supported passage of key legislation, including SB 5393, SB 5680, HB 1217, and HB 1130**

Informing Families

Program FY 2025



Informing Families is a resource provided by the DDC, in collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Community Services (formerly DDA) and other partners throughout the state



Approximately
2348
families and
individuals
received one-on-one support



Coordinators
connected with
over 17,700
community
members



13
coordinators
serving families in
30
counties
across the state

New IF Initiatives:

- **2025** website redesign strengthens access to clear, easy-to-use information for families
- New Northeast Washington coordinator (Stevens and Ferry Counties) expands local support and community connections
- Updated materials improve accuracy across resources

Advocacy Partnership Project

The Advocacy Partnership Project (APP), carried out in partnership with The Arc of Washington, helps people with developmental disabilities, their families and guardians, and other community members get involved in shaping public policy. The project gives individuals tools, opportunities, and support to speak up about the issues that matter most to them.

863

people attended virtual **Advocacy Days in 2025**

30%
99

were first time attendees

wrote a message to their legislator

2026 Projects

2026 projects include the Council's 50th Anniversary History and Visioning initiative in April, bringing together community members to reflect on past progress and shape the future of disability advocacy in Washington. The Council will also release the draft 2026–2031 State Plan for public comment in spring 2026, giving Washingtonians an opportunity to help guide the Council's priorities and work for the next five years. Through these initiatives, we continue to advance policies and programs that create meaningful, lasting change for people with developmental disabilities and their families.