

Role of Counties in Washington State Developmental Disabilities Services



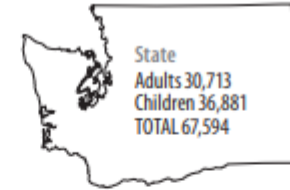
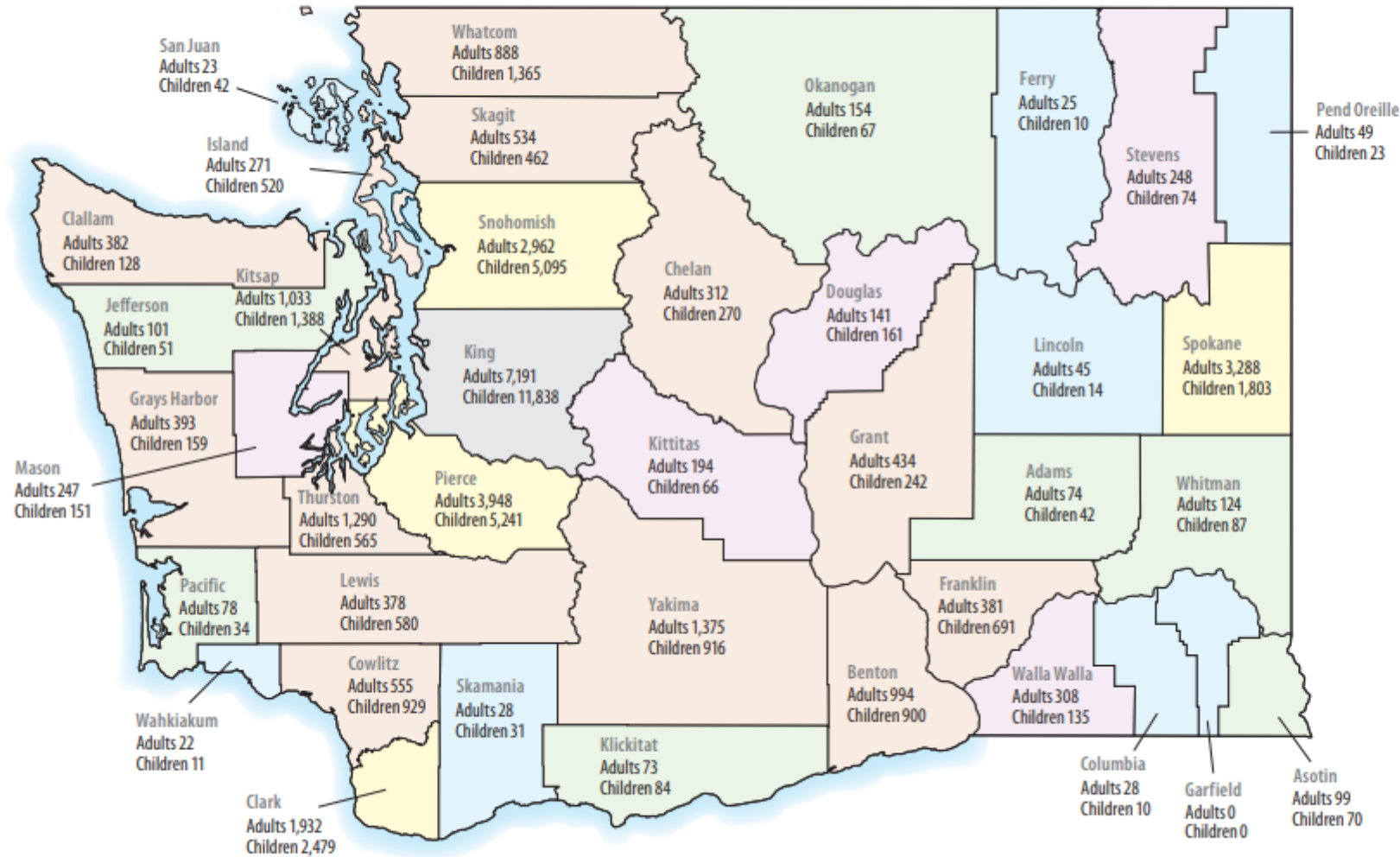
WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



Where Clients Live

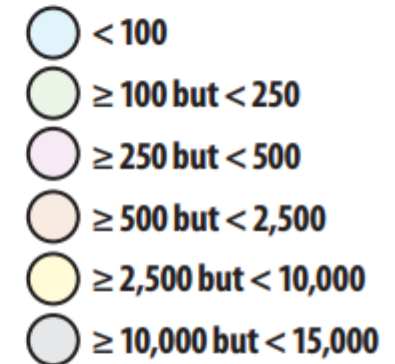
County and Age

2025 DSHS/DDA Caseload report



LEGEND

Clients served by county



DATA SOURCE: CARE Point in time Jul 2025

Other**
Adults 84
Children 146



Role and Authority of Counties (Generally)

Title 36 RCW

Authority of Counties to provide
DD Services, as authorized by the
State.

RCW 71A.14

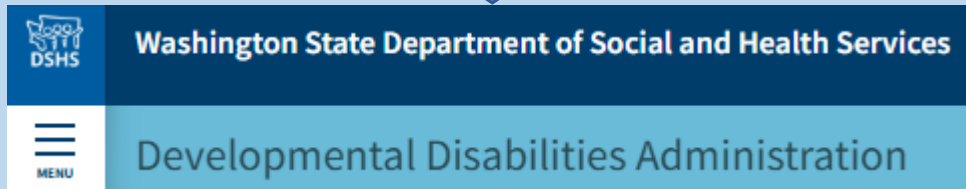


WSAC: Members include County elected officials from around the state. WSAC supports advocacy on behalf of Counties.

ACHS is an affiliate of WSAC with a section made up of County DD coordinators from every County. ACHS meets regularly with DSHS/DDA leadership.

DDA contracts with Counties to provide specific Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

CMS.gov Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



Counties

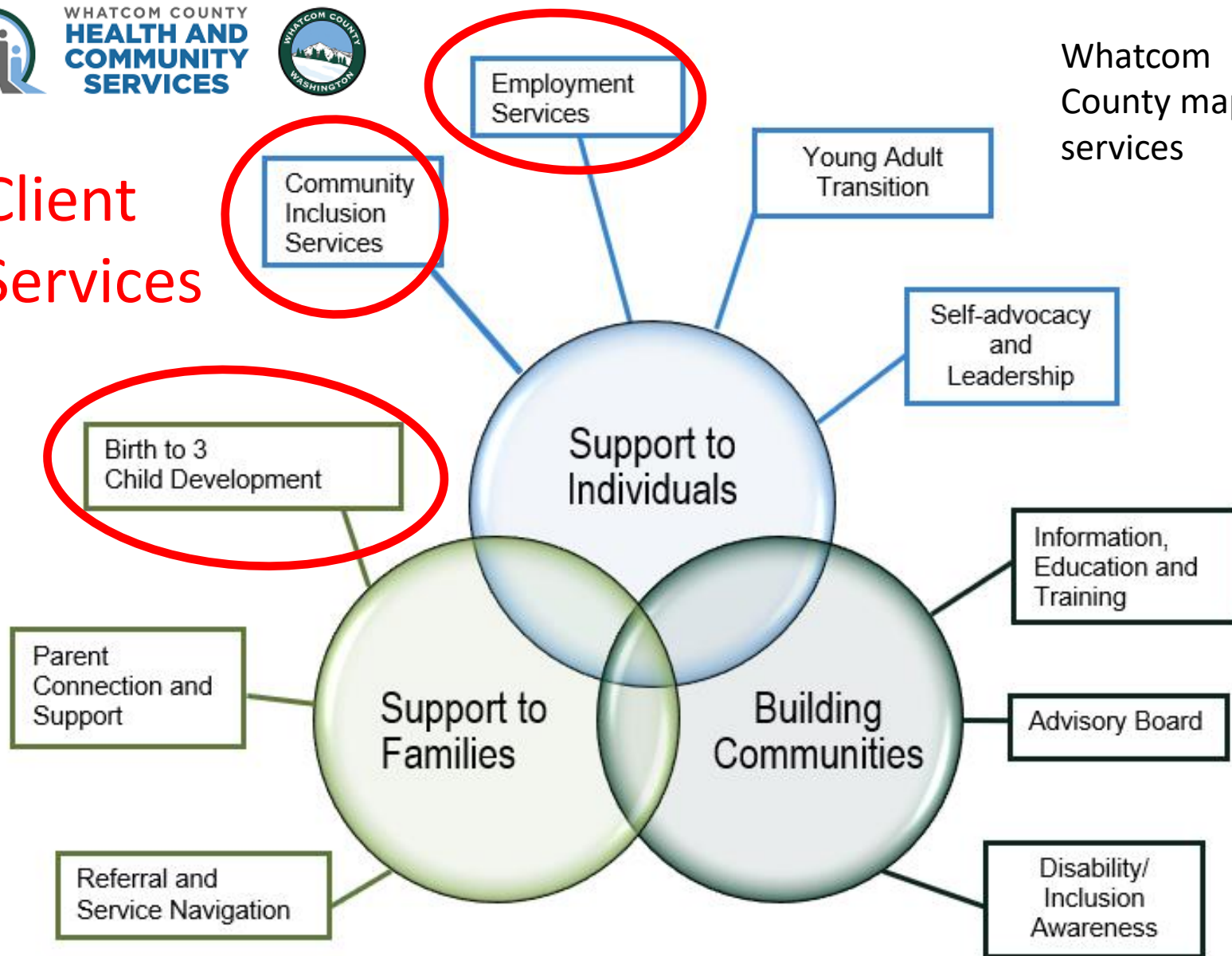


Providers

The role of counties was established in 1988 when Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) were first authorized.

Client Services

Whatcom
County map of
services



RCW 71A.14.060

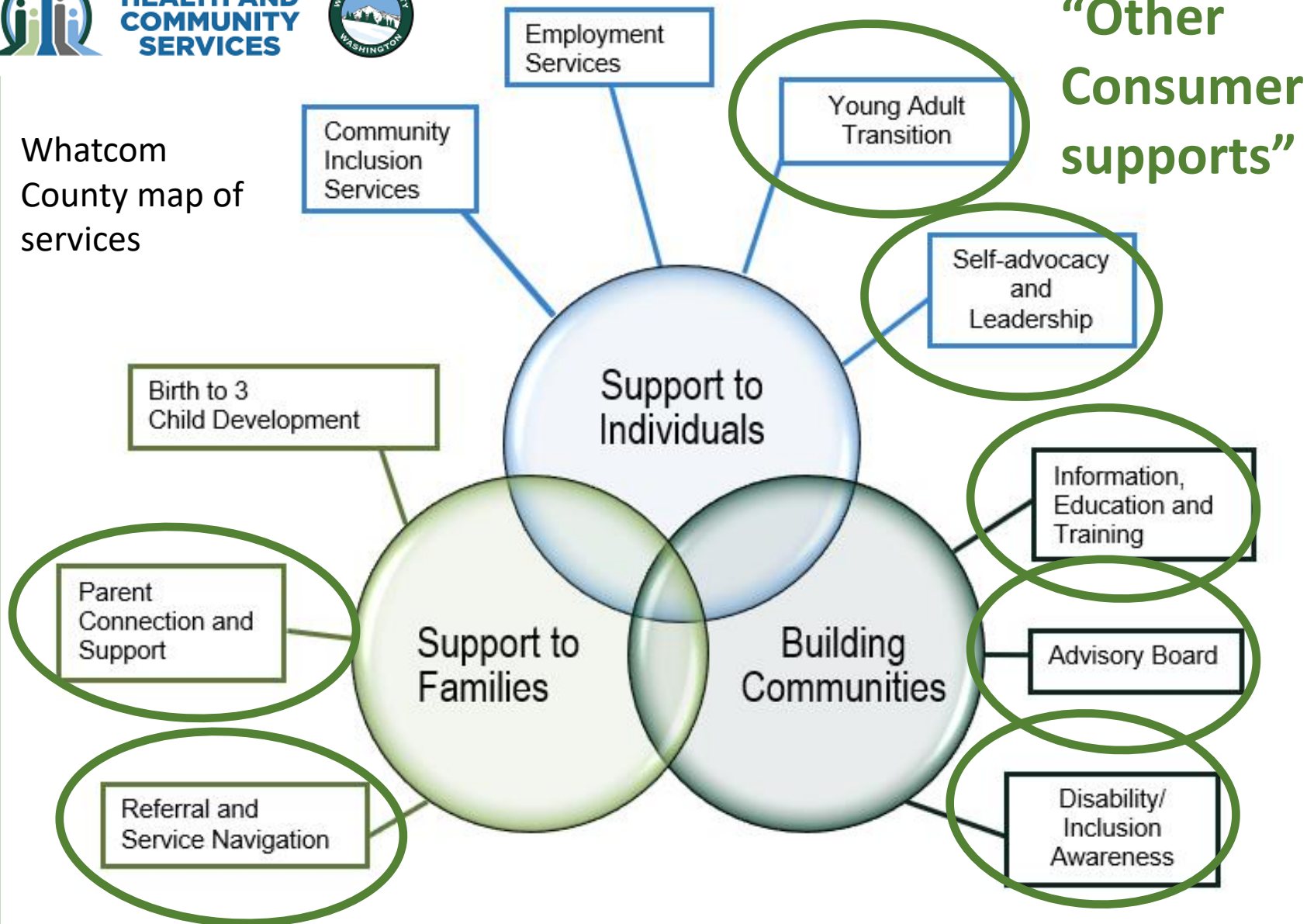
[DSHS] may authorize the County and its board ...to provide any service for persons with developmental disabilities that the department is authorized to provide, except for operating residential habilitation centers.



WHATCOM COUNTY
HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES



Whatcom
County map of
services



**“Other
Consumer
supports”**

**RCW 71A.14.050
..the County and
board shall**

- Act as an information and referral agency within the community...**
- Coordinate all local services...**
- Prepare comprehensive plans...for local services**

Supported Employment Services (Ages 21+)



Counties

- Qualify providers
- Monitor services
- Manage service funding



Contracted Providers

- Markets client to employer
- Customize job tasks
- Train client to learn job
- Train co-workers
- Provide on-going support needed.



Worker with DD

- Identify preferences and job goals
- Meet employer expectations



Business and industry

- Direct hire people with DD
- Set expectations
- Pay wages

DSHS/DDA Working Age Adults Policy 4.11

....."employment provides the rest of the community with the opportunity to benefit from the capabilities and contributions made by people with developmental disabilities."



Community Inclusion Services (Ages 21+)



Counties

- Qualify providers
- Monitor services
- Manage service funding



Contracted Providers

- Supports client to:
- Explore interests
 - Develop relationships
 - Contribute
 - Build skills and independence



Participant with DD

- Identify interests
- Contribute and participate in community groups
- Share interests and skills with others



Community

- Typical, integrated community Settings:
- Non-profits
 - Libraries
 - Senior centers
 - Clubs and community groups

Early Intervention Services (Ages 0-3)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

DCYF has primary responsibility for qualifying and monitoring providers and services.

*Counties are primarily a funding partner, representing less than 8% of total funding.

*11 counties do not provide this service.



Contracted Providers

- Licensed early childhood professionals (such a OT, PT, SLP, educators)
- Support both the child and the family



Child and Family

- Learn skills to maximize their child's development
- Embed child learning into typical family activities and routines
- Identify individualized goals for both child and family



Community

Services occur in the family home or other community settings.
(Childcare, parks, library etc.)

Other Consumer Supports (OCS)

DDA Funding Categories (Not tied to a specific client)

Training

- Provider Staff
- County Board

Partnership Projects with Schools

- Transition Fairs
- Youth Transition Projects

Information and Education

- Parent Information and support
 - Disability Awareness
 - Community Education

Capacity Building

- Start up funds
- Infrastructure

**DDA allocates
funding to
Counties by
formula.**

**Services vary
by County
based on local
priorities.**

Millage

(local property tax funds)

- RCW 71.20.110 Allows Counties to collect up to .0125 of every \$1,000 of assessed property tax value for:

“....the coordination and provision of community services for persons with developmental disabilities or mental health services”

- Not all counties collect millage
- Counties are not required to split the funds evenly between DD and Mental Health.
- A portion of millage is often used for program staffing or admin.

Counties have an important role to play in achieving the benefits of the DDA Guiding Values

