

Let's Save Money and Help People with Developmental Disabilities

Washington has 6,000 adults with developmental disabilities who are currently employed. Of this number, 2,200 are funded by state-only dollars. The state now invests more than \$7 million a year in employment services for these 2,200 adults.

These individuals earned more than \$19 million in wages in 2007. The state spends more than \$3.5 million on additional supports and services for them to continue to live in their communities. With our current state budget deficit, families are concerned that these valuable, existing services may be cut.

On February 6, Sen. Delvin, along with Sen. Mike Hewitt (R-Walla Walla) and Sen. Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville) hosted a reception in Olympia for DD community members from the Tri-Cities.



There's a way to save money AND assure that people receive these essential services:

- Placing this group on the Basic Home and Community-Based services waiver will allow the state to capture a 50.94% federal match in 2009.
- Individuals and their families would receive additional necessary services, like family support and respite, to assure that they can remain in their communities.

AND

- The overall savings the state captures with this strategy is **approximately \$4 Million.**

Without this strategy...

Service could be cut for more than 2,200 adults with developmental disabilities:

- Many of the 6,000 working people with developmental disabilities in Washington have their needed support services protected by the (Medicaid Home and Community Based) Waiver. The 2,200 workers with state-only (non-waiver) funding, are vulnerable to service cuts, and therefore at risk of job loss.
- People with disabilities in Supported Employment are proud, taxpaying, benefits-earning, productive and contributing members of our state's workforce. Many of these workers have been part of the workforce, with the help of state-funded support, for more than 10 years.
- Most of the 2,200 workers will be at risk of losing their jobs within a year without the needed support services.
- Money already invested in developing these jobs, training the employees and their co-workers, and the years of subsequent support provided will be lost.
- Many of these people own or rent their own homes and apartments, and a loss of income could place their housing situations in jeopardy.

While employers are committed, they can't do this on their own:

- The Washington employment service system that leads the nation in effectiveness faces decimation. A system of support, along with its network of employers, which took more than 25 years to build, could be undermined this legislative session.
- The organizations that developed these Supported Employment services face significant funding cuts (some as much as 50%-75%). This could result in a critical loss of trained, experienced and committed personnel that would take years to rebuild.
- Commitments made to employers... *that support would be available for the tenure of these workers' employment*, would be broken if critical funding is cut. The commitment of partnership and goodwill built with the employer community over many years is at risk.

Developmental Disabilities Unmet Need

County	Individual & Family Services Wait List	Employment for High School Graduates for 2007-09 Biennium	Employment for Age 21-62 not in a day program	Senior Families Persons age 40 + living with parents
Adams	17	2	11	9
Asotin/Garfield	15	9	29	7
Benton/Franklin	425	71	428	66
Chelan/Douglas	74	16	125	19
Clallam	71	14	205	23
Clark	564	81	626	103
Cowlitz	67	20	186	30
Ferry	15	3	31	4
Grant	98	28	180	22
Grays Harbor	118	16	164	17
Island	50	12	63	9
Jefferson	25	10	45	11
King	3,859	300	2,484	393
Kitsap	218	53	339	62
Kittitas	15	8	32	6
Klickitat	21	6	51	9
Lewis	78	21	156	29
Lincoln	19	3	5	4
Mason	72	9	68	18
Okanogan	31	10	81	11
Pacific/Wahkiakum	24	9	58	6
Pend Oreille	19	2	25	8
Pierce	789	162	1,476	185
San Juan	6	1	3	2
Skagit	79	24	128	24
Skamania	14	2	14	4
Snohomish	436	128	648	117
Spokane	696	160	1,069	114
Stevens	68	15	86	6
Thurston	232	67	335	59
Walla Walla/Columbia	83	20	134	20
Whatcom	123	33	221	32
Whitman	29	6	15	5
Yakima	311	65	669	93
TOTAL	8,763	1,387	10,196	1,527

Data from Aging and Disability Services Administration as of 10/30/2008

2009 Advocate's Notebook—Arc of Washington State (Updated 11/08)