

*The Mission of the developmental disabilities advisory board is to promote choice, opportunity, and support for people with disabilities in an enhanced community where all people are included, respected, and dignified.*

## **Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board**

**Date: February 1, 2022**

**Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**[Join the Meeting: Zoom Link](#)**

**Call-in Option: 1-253-215-8782**

**Meeting ID: 897 7923 9030**

**Passcode: 314300**

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### **A G E N D A**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF December 7, 2021 MINUTES\***
- 4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\***
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Working Age Adult Policy Implementation**
  - B. Transition Student Update**
  - C. County Supported Employment Update**
- 6. COMMUNITY INPUT**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Legislative and Budget Update**
    - a) Governor's Budget**
  - B. Advocacy Reports**
  - C. Affordable Housing Presentation-Doug Washburn**
  - D. 2022 Virtual Resource Fair**
  - E. COVID Test Information**
  - F. Affordable Connectivity Program Information**
  - G. DDA/DVR Provider Updates**
  - H. Provider Updates**
  - I. Officer Report**
  - J. Staff Report**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

\* = Indicates action item

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
KITSAP COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting  
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER-** Sandy LaCelle called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS-** Members and guests introduced themselves; attendance was taken.
- 3. APPROVAL OF November 2, 2021 MINUTES\***

*MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve November 2, 2021 minutes as submitted. Donna Gearns seconded. Motion carried.*

**4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\***

*MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the Agenda as amended Donna Gearns seconded. Motion carried.*

**7.C 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 % New Business**

- a) Gay Neal, Program Coordinator for Kitsap County Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Therapeutic Courts otherwise known as the 1/10<sup>th</sup> sales tax funding, gave an update on this year's Request for Proposal outcomes and new programs funded for the 2022 calendar year.
  - This year, the focus was placed on conducting large outreach efforts to target new programs and reach service providers who were unaware of the funding.
  - There was 7 million available with some support from reserves to award applicants and 9 million in requests.
  - They received 37 applications with 9 organizations that had never applied in the past, with a total of 16 new contracts.
  - There was a noticeable trend this year where most applications were for outpatient services. This shows successful support in the Community where collectively we are moving away from crisis to service-based needs
  - Increased funding with reserves included, allowed 33 applicants to be funded. Some of the new programs funded included;
    - Peninsula Community Health adding an additional behavior health specialist to cover the CK School District, allowing for a redistribution of coverage to all schools served
    - Catholic Community Services for expansion of access to the agency's WISE services to youth who do not have

- Medicaid coverage
- Kitsap Mental Health Services for Crisis Triage Center short-term stabilization services to unfunded and Medicare-only adults
- North Kitsap Fishline will have an onsite therapist to intervene and help individuals into services
- One Heart Wild animal and equine assisted therapy for children and families in need of behavioral and emotional support
- Suquamish Tribe for an additional peer support specialist
- YWCA onsite behavioral health specialist
- Recovery support services for housing
  1. Eagles Wings for case manager and a psychiatric nurse
  2. Kitsap Mental Health's Pendleton Place

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Working Age Adult Policy Implementation**

- a. Met with Keyport staff as a follow-up from the October 12<sup>th</sup> presentation to discuss employment possibilities. Moving forward a tour will be scheduled to review various departments work tasks and meet with hiring managers to ask questions and better understand the work being conducted. From information gathered, plans to design a proposal outlining potential employment opportunities, coordinate with personnel and hopefully move hiring efforts forward.
- b. WISE continues their weekly online Wednesday webinars from 12-1 which are free to attend; information available on their website. They continue to support an online Learning Center, where on-demand content on a variety of topics is available
- c. Funding was provided for three agency staff to attend this year's Highline training, now called WOA Online Academy 200 series; it is scheduled between January and June; it continues to be intensive training for agency supported employment staff to learn best practices and strategies in assisting participants obtain and maintain employment.
- d. Work continues for creating new Kitsap County positions
- e. Staff is continuing to track employment during COVID; holding steady at 58%

### **B. Transition Student Update**

- a. In process of enrolling 2023 transition students for Job Foundation; planning for 18 students; 11 are in process and 5 out of the 11 have selected a provider. This year's enrollment has gone slower than hoped due to many schools experiencing staffing issues which has reduced availability to meet with students and parents.

- b. Wrapping up the 2021 School to Work class; a couple students will be transitioning onto long term funding and another student began a job this month; the final data will be provided at February's meeting. Agency activities continue for the 2022, School to Work students.
- c. DDA sent a statewide letter to students informing them about Job Foundation and resources through counties, including county contact information. Other counties have confirmed receiving calls as a result from this outreach effort. Kelly reports, she has not received any calls yet.
- d. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the next PAVE, IEP Workshop will be held virtually from 2-4 pm. The topic is Birth to Three services. PAVE representative, Vanessa Lewis also attended the November Special Ed. Director's meeting and presented information regarding this year's IEP Workshops and PAVE services.

### **C. ACAC Updates**

- a. Updates on the Hippocampe chairs, they have been purchased and are now available through Bainbridge Parks and Recreation. Checkout information was provided in a handout.

## **6. COMMUNITY INPUT**

- a. No input

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Legislative and Budget Updates**

- a. Local Housing Revenue flyer
  - o County Commissioners are being asked to pass a 1/10<sup>th</sup> Of 1% housing sales tax to go towards affordable housing efforts
  - o Report was completed in March 2020 with recommendations to address what had been identified as needs; one need identified was maintaining the affordable housing that is currently available; most individuals supported by DDA services would benefit if passed as individuals targeted to benefit are those earning below 60% of area median income
  - o There will be a Public Hearing on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>
  - o COVID has exacerbated issues with both mental health and affordable housing
  - o Discussed having a county representative come to provide the Board additional information on this topic
  - o DDA hired a new position at headquarters to focus on accessibility and affordable housing statewide. Kelly is working to connect them with local housing resources, Kelly will keep the committee updated

- b. Department of Health vaccine booster eligibility -handout
- c. At previous meeting, concerns were expressed regarding provider capacity and stability of county funded employment and community inclusion programs; to address these concerns, DDA approved a higher rate lid for services through June 2022
  - o With Covid highlighting the struggles providers have recruiting and retaining staff and the rate lid remaining the same since 2011 despite increases to the cost of living and providers' costs of doing business, there is an urgent need to increase those rates beyond June 2022 to ensure system stability
  - o Advocacy efforts are underway with the Legislature to support higher reimbursement rates for services
- d. Back in Feb. we reviewed a report that was focused on statewide transition services, The Transition Collaborative Summary; it was provided to the Legislature from the partnership and efforts of OSPI, DDA and DVR. The report recommendations that require funding to implement will potentially be seen in upcoming Legislative sessions.

**B. Advocacy Reports**

- a. None

**C. 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% Projects – Gay Neal**

- a. Moved to the beginning of the meeting\*

**D. DD Board Priorities 2022\***

- a. Reviewed two additional updates to the 2022 Work Plan
- b. Goals completed or in progress: The 9<sup>th</sup> year of School to with 2021 graduates in progress, completed first year of Job Foundation for 2022 graduates, continued Partners for Work activities with Kitsap Rotary Clubs

*MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the 2022 Work Plan as amended. Donna Gearns seconded. Motion carried.*

**E. DDA/DVR Provider Updates**

- a. New care provider payment system, CDE begins February 1st
- b. New DDA Supervisor, will be introduced at the February meeting
- c. New DDA Case Resource Manager, Tori Garrett, hired
- d. DVR transition updates, New DVR School to Work contract is signed; subsequent provider contracts are in the works for the coming year

**F. Provider Updates**

- a. Kimberly Adams, ARC of the Peninsulas, shared (3) flyers
  - o Life after High School Series

- Bingo Family Night
- Parent to Parent (P2P) Support Group

**G. Officer Report**

- a. No meeting in January 2022

**H. Staff Report**

- a. None

**I. Triple P – Parenting Program**

- a. Positive Parenting Program – flyer included
- b. Jennifer Acuna, announced interest of Bremerton and Poulsbo to have a cohort

8. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

\* = Indicates action item

**ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS	GUESTS/ORGANIZATIONS	STAFF
<p><i><u>Present</u></i>  <i>Sandra LaCelle</i>  <i>Frances Aquiningoc</i>  <i>Donna Gears</i>  <i>Heidi Scheibner</i>  <i>Kathy Lougheed</i>  <i>Jennifer Acuña</i>  <i>Rae Williams</i></p> <p><i><u>Absent</u></i>  <i>George Adams</i>  <i>Veola Taylor</i></p>	<p><i>Kimberly Adams, ARC of the Peninsulas</i>  <i>Gay Neal, Kitsap County Human Services</i></p>	<p>Kelly Oneal  Hannah Shockley</p>

# Kitsap County Homelessness, Housing and Ordinance KC-608-22 for Affordable Housing and Related Services

**February 1, 2022**

**Kitsap DD Advisory Board**





# The Department of Human Services

Provides vital individual and community support services to ...

- **Over 30,000** clients in 11 major program areas
- 500 grants, contracts and amendments
- 2 multi-county regional executive boards
- 11 community advisory boards, commissions, and councils with over 170 members
- 2022 budget projection: **\$60,517,000**
- **87%** of funding contracted out to community providers.



# KC Ordinance 608-22 Approved

ORDINANCE NO. 608

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT FOR HOUSING SALES AND RELATED SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY RCW 82.14.530; ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 4.34 TO KITSAP COUNTY CODE.

in the 2020 Regular Session, the Washington State Legislature approved, House Bill 1590 (Chapter 222, Laws of 2020), which amended RCW Chapter 82.14.530 authorizes the governing body of a city or county to impose an additional sales and use tax of not less than one percent on the sale of housing and related services; and

RCW 82.14.530 authorizes the governing body of a city or county to impose an additional sales and use tax of not less than one percent on the sale of housing and related services; and

at least 60% of the revenue must be used for housing and related services.

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30 percent

occupants are po  
utilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Affordable Housing Recommendation of the Kitsap County and the City of Bremerton found that Kitsap County has a significant need for housing to low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, population forecasts indicate Kitsap County and its jurisdiction will require approximately 25,150 new housing units through 2036, or about 1,480 per year to meet the needs of all types and price and



## Kitsap Sun

### Sales tax increase approved

Funds to help pay for affordable housing

Peju Liu/Knap/Sea  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kitsap County commissioners on Monday unanimously passed an ordinance that will add an additional sales and use tax of 1/10th of 1% to help pay for affordable housing, aimed at providing homes and housing services to those making below 60% of the area median income.

Rob Gubler and Ed Wolfe passed the ordinance, made possible by a law passed by the legislature in 2020 allowing local governments to impose a 1/10th of 1% sales tax for affordable housing without voter approval, during Monday's board of commissioners meeting.

"The commissioners had taken public testimony at multiple public hearings and also accepted written comments on the ordinance through the end of 2021," Wolfe said. "I'm supportive of this," Wolfe said.

"We've never seen the number of people living outside that we are currently seeing. And so, it is indicative of the desperate need for affordable housing," Charlotte Garrido, Commissioner

See TAX, Page 4A



ATTEST:

Dana Daniels  
Clerk of the Board

KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Edward T. Wolfe, Chair

Rob Gubler  
Charlotte Garrido

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy Prosecutor  
Alan L. Miles



# Increasing Funding at the Local Level: HB 1590

- Local city councils and/or county commissions can pass a local housing tax, authorized by the state legislature (HB 1590) 2020/ HB1070 (2021)
- This 1/10th of 1% sales tax increase will cost the average citizen \$17 a year. (WLIHA)
- Working Family Tax Credit this past session rebating sales tax to low and moderate income families.
- Housing for 60% AMI and below and Behavioral Health \$
- Funds will leverage at least 5 times other funds for affordable housing construction and acquisition
- Consistent with recommendations of recent AH Study

# 2020 ECONorthwest Study

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## City of Bremerton & Kitsap County Affordable Housing Recommendations Report

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March 2020

Prepared for: The City of Bremerton and Kitsap County

FINAL REPORT

**ECONorthwest**  
ECONOMICS • FINANCE • PLANNING

Park Place  
1200 8th Avenue, Suite 615  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-823-3080

*“Kitsap County has several housing related challenges, including the need for a variety of housing types and the need for more housing affordable to low-income households”*

*“Kitsap has also been significantly underproducing housing, producing only 42 new units for every 100 new households formed”.*

*“Jurisdictions will need to almost triple their annual housing production to accommodate the expected 25,150 new units through 2036”.*

# Housing Realities in Kitsap

- Residents are facing a significant affordable housing crisis, leading to nearly 40% of households paying more than the accepted 30% of monthly income for their housing
- Lack of rental housing for low income and those vulnerable people requiring safe housing with support services is especially acute
- State and federal funds typically require local match funds to gain access and local governments have limited finance tools to use
- Rents and housing costs have dramatically skyrocketed in recent years while wages for low and moderate income have barely increased - leading to major inequities
- The COVID pandemic has only increased housing instability

# Need for Housing in Kitsap



**1,747**

Kitsap County  
households **requested  
housing assistance** in  
2020 (Housing Solutions Center)



**414**

**Homeless children** counted  
by Kitsap School Districts in  
school year '20-'21



**533**

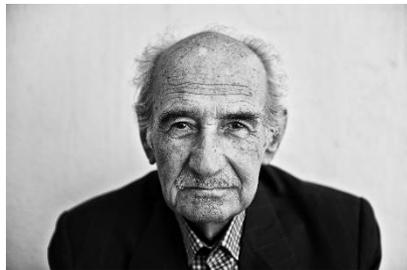
**People without a  
home** counted in a 24-hour  
period in Kitsap County during  
the 2020 Point-in-Time Count.



**83%**

of households were below  
Federal Poverty Level

# Why are so many people homeless? Why has homelessness increased over the last decade?



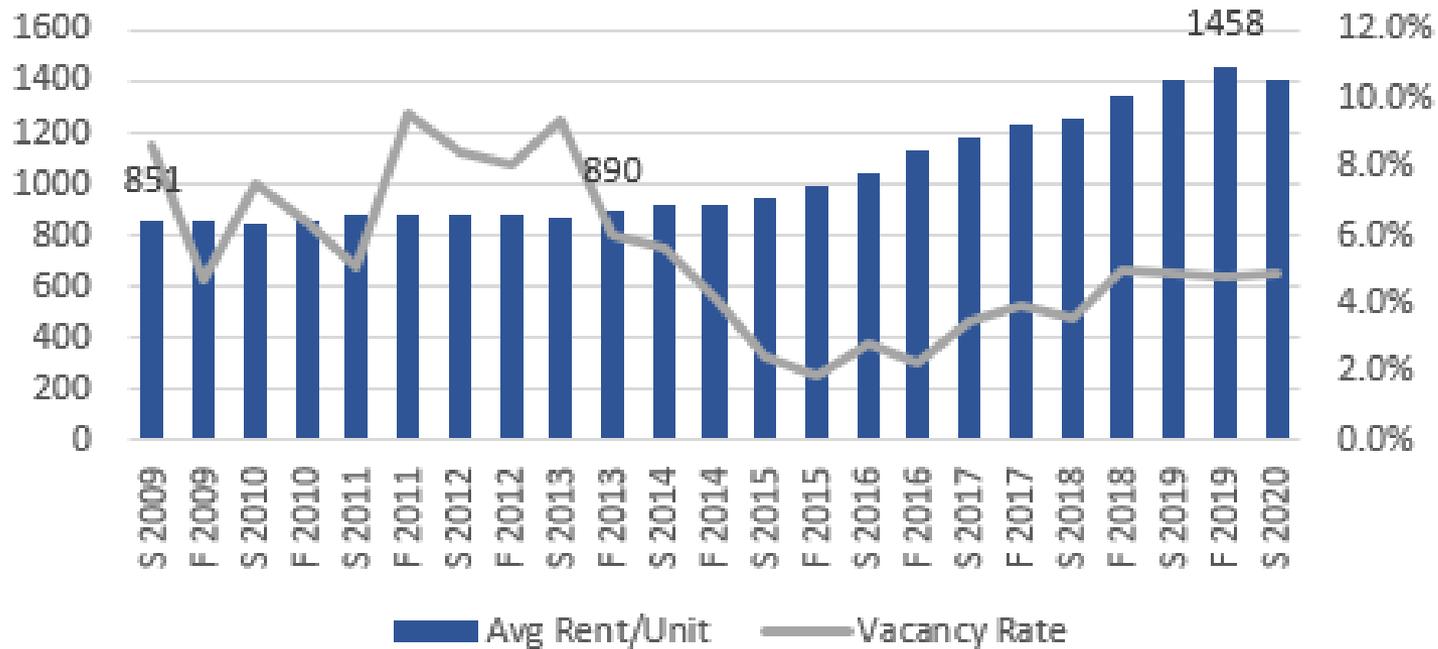
# What changed?

1. *Cost of housing* has increased
2. *Wages* for many are stagnant
3. Not enough *affordable AND available housing*
4. Once displaced, *huge barriers* to finding housing again

Cost of housing drives increases in homelessness

Average rent has increased **40%** in the last five years

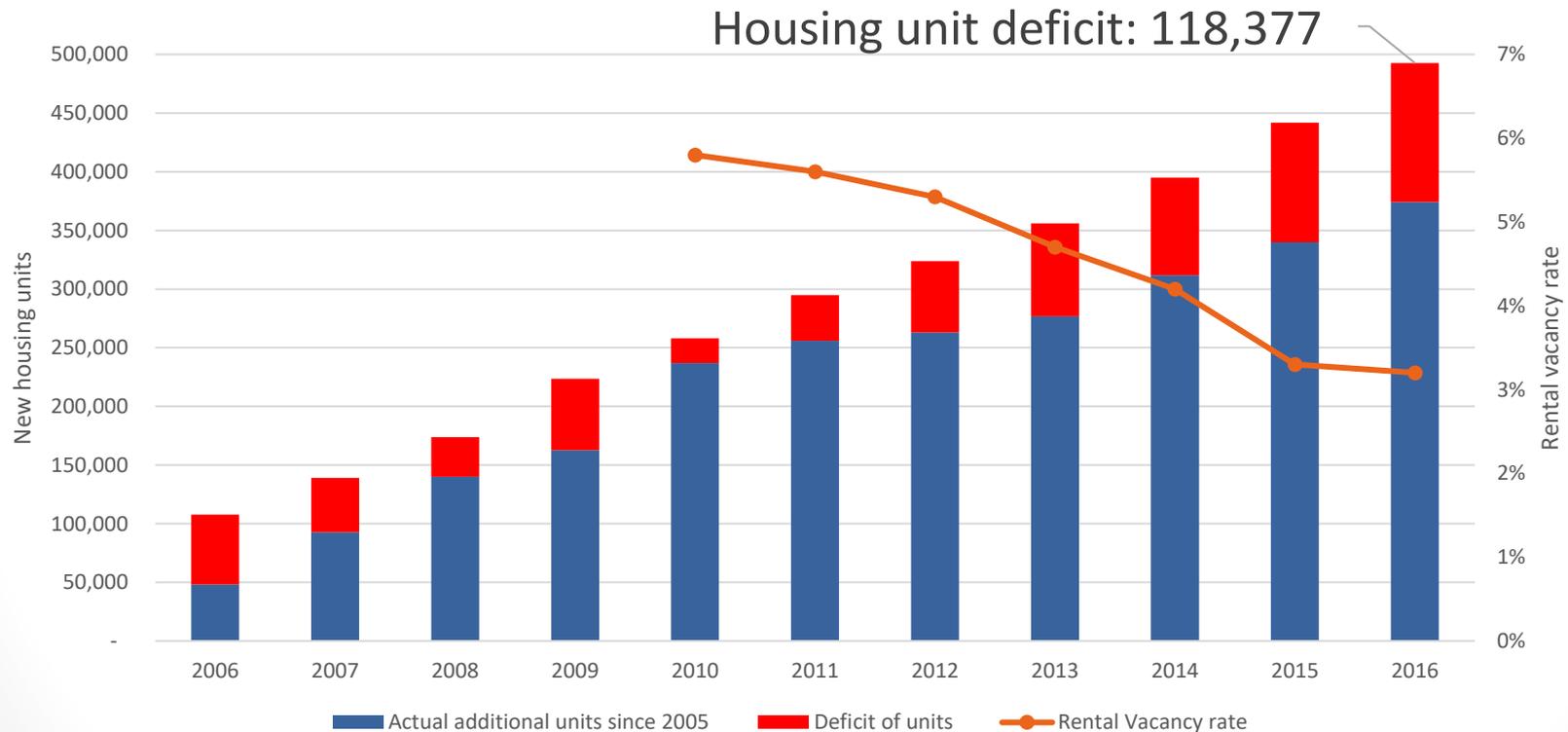
### Kitsap Rent/Unit and Vacancy Rates



Source: UW Washington State Apartment Market Report



# State deficit of new housing units necessary to maintain 2005 ratio of people to housing units



Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_1YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_DP04&prodType=table)  
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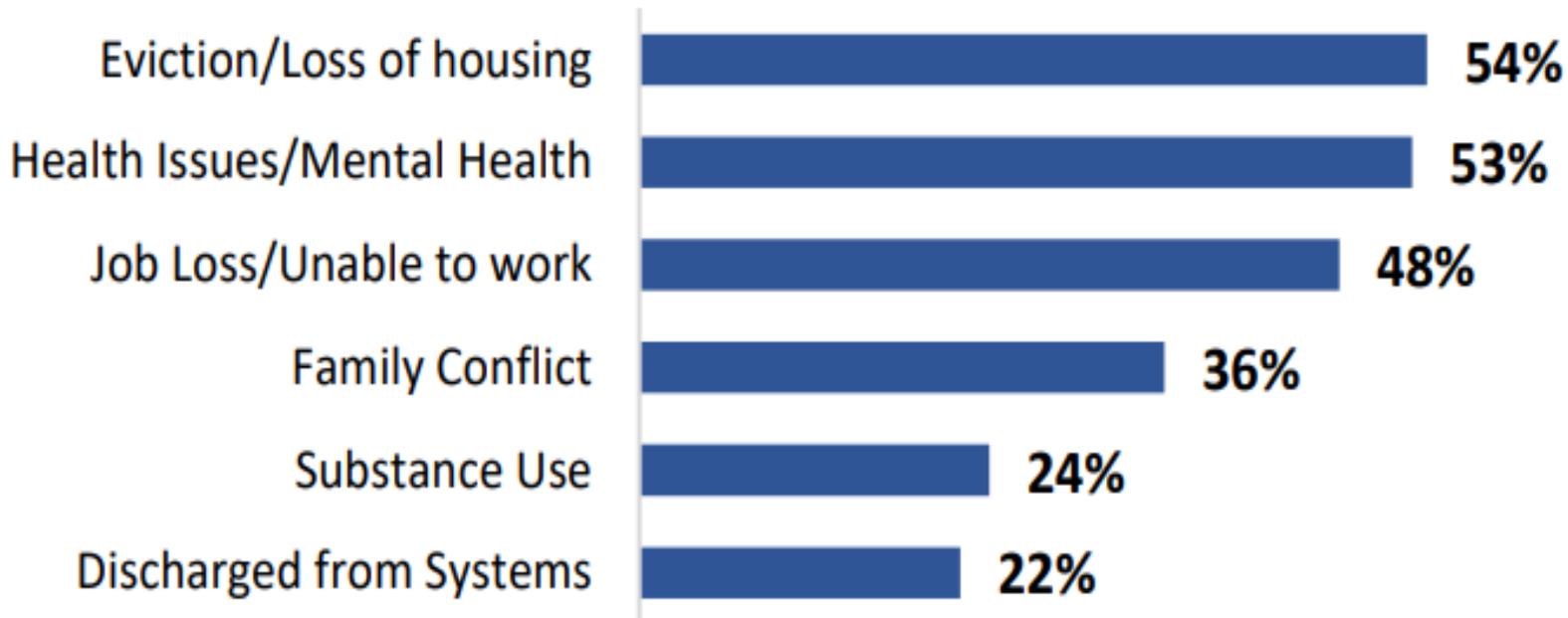


Department of Commerce



## *Causes of Homelessness*

When asked about the specific cause (or causes) of homelessness, 116 unsheltered households (71%) responded. The most common response was housing issues (eviction or loss of housing), health issues (including mental health), followed by economic issues (loss of job or unable to work).



# How may the tax be utilized?

## Local Sales and Use Tax for Housing and Related Services.

A city or county legislative authority may impose a 0.1 percent sales and use tax to fund housing and related services. The tax may be imposed by councilmanic action or by voter approval.

## A minimum of 60 percent of revenues collected must be used as follows:

- for constructing affordable housing, affordable housing units, facilities providing housing-related services, or mental and behavioral health-related services; or
- to fund the operations and maintenance costs of newly constructed affordable housing, facilities providing housing-related services, or evaluation and treatment centers.

# Who Will the Funding Serve?

The affordable housing and facilities providing housing-related programs must serve any of the following individuals with income below 60 percent of area median income:

- individuals with behavioral health disabilities;
- veterans;
- senior citizens;
- homeless persons;
- unaccompanied homeless youth;
- persons with disabilities; or
- domestic violence victims.

The remainder of the money collected must be used for operation, delivery, or evaluation of Senate Bill Report - 2 - ESHB 1070 mental and behavioral health treatment programs and services or housing-related services.

# What are Other Counties/Cities Doing?

## Passed by public vote

Anacortes  
Ellensburg  
Olympia  
Pt. Angeles

## Passed Councilmatic

City of Poulsbo  
City of Bainbridge Island  
King County (and several cities independently)  
Jefferson County  
Bellingham and Whatcom County  
Tacoma  
Spokane  
Snohomish  
Vancouver  
Wenatchee/E Wenatchee  
Skagit – Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Sedro Wooley

## Considering

Mason, Thurston, Pierce, San Juan, San Juan, Clallam, Walla Walla, Yakima

# Estimated Annual Revenue Generated

## A few examples:

- Kitsap - \$5.4 M
- Olympia -\$2.3 M
- Jefferson County -\$600,000
- Whatcom County -\$5 M
- Spokane -\$5.7 M
- Ellensburg -\$600,000

# Timeline

- **November 2021** – Board members reach out via email and phone to Bremerton, Port Orchard and Bainbridge Island regarding their thoughts and local plans on this tax proposal (Poulsbo has already implemented one)
- **November 2021** – Staff drafts a local Ordinance enacting the sales tax
- **November 29, 2021** – Adopting Ordinance available to the public
- **December 13, 2021** – Public Hearing on Ordinance
- **January 10, 2022** – Board Approved Ordinance
- **January 14, 2022** – Ordinance delivered to Department of Revenue
- **February – March 2022** – Form and Recruit CAB
- **April 1, 2022** – Sales tax scheduled for enactment

# Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance (KEPA)

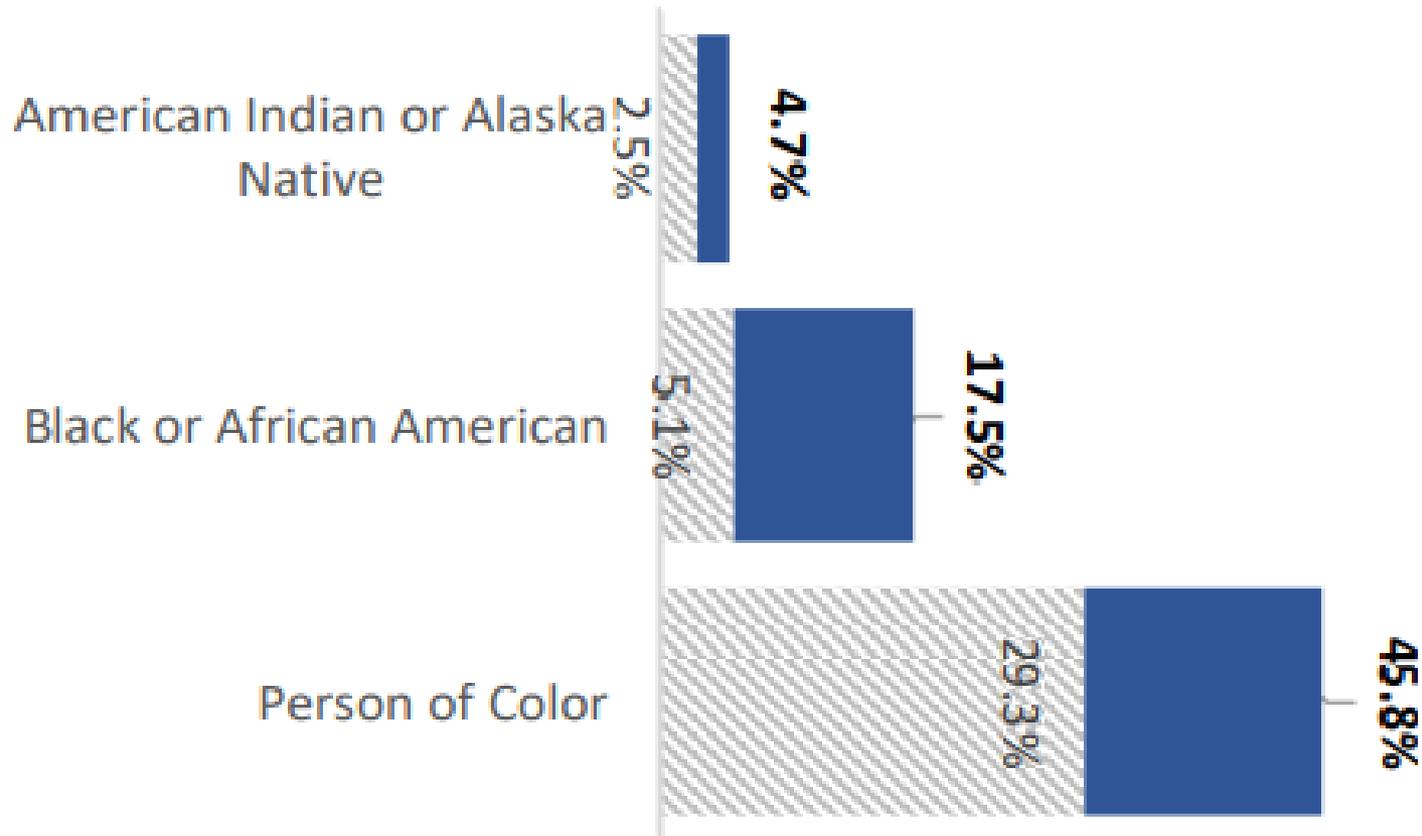
Over \$11.3 million in unpaid rental assistance paid to landlords for 2,245 most vulnerable low-income households at risk of eviction

67% of households served have incomes less than 30% Area Median Income

Household Size	30% AMI
1	\$19,260
2	\$22,020
3	\$24,780
4	\$27,520

An average amount of **\$5,047** of assistance has been provided per qualifying household.

# Racial Equity Benchmarks and Performance



▨ Benchmark (minimum goal based on Kitsap Census)

■ Performance (% of Total Served)

# Response Activities



Worked with non-profit partners to "stand up" an additional **150 new temporary COVID-19 homeless shelter beds**, which served **593 unique individuals** with **27,994 bed nights** and **105,923 meals**. These shelter beds were in operation from April - December 2020 and continued operations through 2021.



Worked with existing shelters to implement CDC guidelines on bed-spacing, hygiene and sanitation practices and added funding so that **all shelters moved to 24/7 operations**.



Distributed over **250,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE)** to homeless shelters and housing programs.



Worked closely with the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center to **stand up a comprehensive Quarantine and Isolation Center**, available to people who are unhoused or unable to safely stay at home while isolating or quarantining. During 2020, the Quarantine and Isolation Center provided **510 nights** of safe accommodation for **85 individuals**, as well as medical care, meals, and supportive services.



Provided **14 new portable handwash stations** at shelters and locations where people experiencing homelessness could use them to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Coordinated the distribution of over **100,000 cloth masks** to low-income households through community-wide service providers including food banks, clinics, non-profits, and other service providers.



Administered and contracted **\$1,388,576** to partner organizations for COVID-19 response activities for homelessness and housing security programs.

# Questions, Comments, Suggestions

Contact:

Doug Washburn – 360-337-4526

[dwashbur@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:dwashbur@co.kitsap.wa.us)

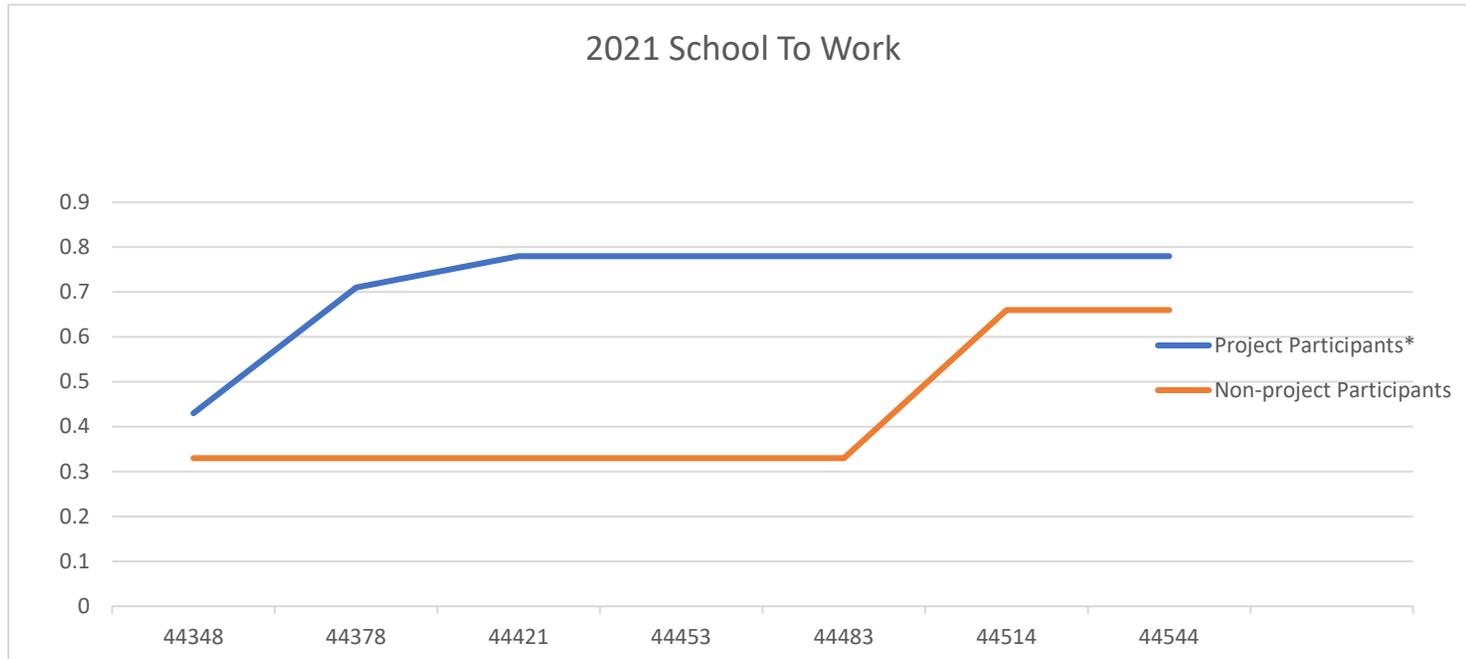
# Transition Student Update

## February 2022

<b><u>2021 Transition Students</u></b>	State-only	Waiver	Total
School to Work Program Participants	0	0	<b>0</b>
DVR	0	4	<b>4</b>
Declined, d/c, or other	4	9	<b>13</b>
No contact	0	0	<b>0</b>
Employed/Long Term Funding	0	12	<b>12</b>
<b>Total 2021 Transition Students</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>

<b><u>2022 Transition Students</u></b>	State-only	Waiver	Total
School to Work Program Participants	5	7	<b>12</b>
DVR	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Completed Job Foundation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

<b><u>2023 Transition Students</u></b>	State-only	Waiver	Total
Job Foundation Program Participants	4	6	<b>10</b>



**2021 School To Work Employed**

	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Project Participants*	43%	71%	78%	78%	78%	78%	78%
Non-project DVR Participants	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	66%	66%

\* 1 S2W participants dropped out of program

School to Work Expenditures	\$119,000
Program Reimbursement	<u>\$75,815</u>
Total Expended	\$43,185

## Job Foundation 2021

In September 2020 the Job Foundation pilot was launched. The purpose of the Job Foundation pilot project is to engage students earlier in targeted employment planning and connection; increase partnership with school staff to complete student's Job Foundation document that includes actionable next steps for employment; and increase the number of students completing transition programs with a job or secondary education connection. Partners include DDA, DVR, OSPI, schools, counties, service providers, families, and students.

### Job Foundation Pilot Project 1<sup>st</sup> Year Highlights

184 students with completed Job Foundation from 90 school districts

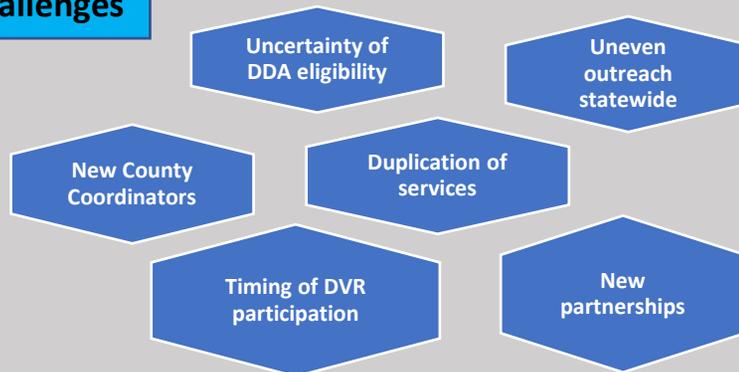
Involvement from 20 of 39 counties in Washington State

6 Community of Practice training sessions hosted by WISE

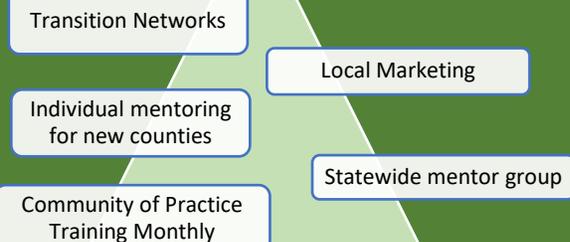
Job Foundation Reports and Guidelines translated into 8 languages

Increased School, County, employment providers and DVR collaborations

#### Challenges



#### The Future of Job Foundation



## **Job Foundation 2021**

September 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic the Job Foundation pilot was launched. Through partnerships with DDA, DVR, and OSPI, Counties started implementing the Job Foundation project. 20 Counties stepped up to participate in the Job Foundation pilot. Students interested in employment applied to participate in their second to last year of school transition services. Applicants were connected to their local community employment providers to begin their pathway to employment. Partnerships were developed or strengthened across the 20 Counties with schools, DVR and providers. Interest and participation grew as more stakeholders across the state learned of the pilot and partnered with their County Developmental Disabilities program to bring Job Foundation to their communities.

### **Highlights of the year:**

Due to the COVID pandemic with schools providing remote learning, providers were committed and amazingly creative in ways they connected with the student and their support network consisting of families, schools, and other stakeholders. These efforts produced quality Job Foundation reports as a start on the student's pathway to employment.

Training and technical assistance was provided specific to Job Foundation report writing in many areas.

ACHS statewide mentorship group met monthly to discuss program roll out, track outcomes, offer guidance, answer questions and revise program criteria as needed.

184 Completed reports from 13 Counties and roughly 90 school districts from across the state. 4 of these Counties are new to providing direct support to transition students. 7 of the original 20 Counties focused their efforts on developing or strengthening partnerships locally.

WISE sponsored 6 Community of Practice sessions focused on Job Foundation. These sessions provided support to those implementing Job Foundation but also was an avenue for those interested. Through participation in these sessions, 3 additional Counties began connecting with local partners to implement Job Foundation in their communities starting with the 2023 transition graduates. Several additional Counties (5-6) are building their transition efforts with the goal of participating in Job Foundation in the future.

Training and outreach efforts occurred throughout the year both locally and at statewide conferences.

Transition Networks continued, started, or were revitalized due to efforts around Job Foundation

Job Foundation reports and guidelines translated into 8 languages

Job Foundation provided a structure to support partnerships.

### **Bumps along the way**

Information and outreach was uneven across the state. Interest in Job Foundation quickly grew with stakeholders, highlighting the need for local partnerships in transition efforts and a formal structure to support partnerships.

DDA's final eligibility review occurs during Job Foundation creating uncertainty of continued DDA eligibility.

Timing and clarity of DVR participation in Job Foundation and services shifted in a positive direction yet creating unclear expectations for all partners, including VRCs.

Counties newer to transition efforts or having new County Coordinators need more support to implement Job Foundation.

School Districts currently contracting with employment providers to provide employment services was challenging due to concerns with duplicating or supplanting services.

County billing needed clarification and corrections

**Future Efforts:**

Continued marketing locally to all partners about Job Foundation pilot

Increase efforts to promote local Transition Networks

Continued efforts with Counties to provide "transition services" minimally supporting DVR involvement during last years in school.

Community of Practice session continue monthly

ACHS statewide mentor group meeting quarterly allowing for local individualized mentoring to occur

Structure local individualized mentoring as needed

## 2022 Operating Budget Proposals

### Comparisons for Programs/Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

	Agency	Budget Item	Governor	Senate	House	Final
1	DDA	Continue COVID rate enhancement for personal care providers and client services	\$180.9 M GFS 😊 \$318.5 M GFF 😊			
2	DDA	Emergency FMAP-Additional 6.2 % in FMAP funds for Medicaid January through June 2022	(\$50.5 M GFS) 😊 \$50.5 M GFF 😊			
3	DDA	Community Supports for Children-Add six 3-bed homes in intensive habilitation services & six 3-bed homes in enhanced out-of-home services for youth 8 to 21	\$5.5 M GFS 😊 \$3.4 M GFF 😊			
4	DDA	Transform services for DDA-Forecast need for community and residential services, respite beds and crisis stabilization services, study Medicaid rates and develop metrics for community residential, add DDA to caseload forecasting in 2023-25 biennium	\$160,000 GFS 😊			
5	DDA	DDA Waiver & SOLA Forecasting-Determine appropriate methods to forecast IDD services to estimate the number needing IFS waiver, basic plus waiver and SOLA placements	\$205,000 GFS 😊 \$205,000 GFF 😊			
6	DDA	Adult Family Homes agreement	\$10.3 M GFS 😊 \$9.5 M GFF 😊			
7	DDA	Community Residential Services - Two staff will verify that Medicaid clients receive services authorized on Core and Community Protection waivers	\$308,000 GFS 😊 \$237,000 GFF 😊			
8	DDA	Transitional Care Management-Coordinate transitions for 2,100 clients moving from one care setting to a new one	\$4.8 M GFS 😊 \$3.7 M GFF 😊			
9	DDA	Expand Enhanced Case Management from 700 to 1,500 clients, reduce caseload ratios to 1 per 30 clients	\$3.7 M GFS 😊 \$2.7 M GFF 😊			
10	DDA	Increase Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid clients in residential and institutional settings	\$99,000 GFS 😊 \$62,000 GFF 😊			
11	DDA	HCBS Provider Development-Increase hourly rates for HCBS providers of waiver services and for an assistive technology program manager	\$1.9 M GFS 😊 \$994,000 😊			
12	DDA	Continuum of Care - create 32 beds through HCA for short-term Residential Crisis Stabilization Program (RCSP) for youth with sever behavioral health diagnosis (Capital budget includes funding for the new facility)	\$84,000 GFS 😊 \$84,000 GFF 😊			
13	DDA	Youth inpatient navigators through Seattle Childrens Hospital and HCA to identify temporary alternative services for kids needing continued intensive care	\$82,000 GFS 😊 \$82,000 GFF 😊			
14	HCA	Increase dental procedure rates for children	\$7.4 M GFS 😊 \$8.2 M GFF 😊			
15	HCA	Increase number and frequency of well child visits in Apple Health to detect early concerns	\$220,000 GFS 😊 \$132,000 GFF 😊			
16	CFC	Transform services for DDA-Forecast number of those who requested supported living services and the number expected to reside in SOLAs	\$188,000 GFS 😊			
17	COM	Support people with IDD with grants to orgs that help children & adults with IDD build motor skills, support development, improve health and develop leadership free of charge	\$5 M GFF 😊			
	Support 😊	Oppose 😊	Hmmm 😊			
	The Arc of Washington State - <a href="http://www.arcwa.org">www.arcwa.org</a> - (888) 754-8798					
	<a href="#">Click here to see the Budget Proposal</a>			12/16/2021		

DDA-Developmental Disabilities Administration, CFC-Caseload Forecast Council, COM-Dept of Commerce, OSPI-Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, (G) Governor, (S) Senate, (H) House



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**Developmental Disabilities Administration**  
PO Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310

December 20, 2021

**TO:** DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration Stakeholders

**FROM:** Debbie Roberts, Assistant Secretary

**SUBJECT: Governor's Proposed Supplemental 2021–23 Operating Budget Released**

Last Thursday, Governor Inslee released his proposed 2021–23 first supplemental budget. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the way in which we assist clients in need of services and supports. We are pleased to see that the Governor continues to recognize our priorities to support clients and providers as we continue to manage the difficulties surrounding this pandemic. In terms of priority themes supported by the Governor in his proposed budget, expanding community support for children and transforming services for individuals with IDD, continuing to support COVID-19 related mitigation efforts, and reducing case management caseload sizes, are among the priorities.

Below are significant items the Governor's supplemental budget proposal includes for DDA:

**Community Supports for Children**

Families caring for children and youth with significant behavioral issues need extra support. This funding will expand intensive habilitation services and out-of-home services for children and youth from ages eight to 21. This includes adding six three-bed facilities in licensed intensive habilitation services and six three-bed facilities for long-term enhanced out-of-home services. (\$8.9M total funds; \$5.5M GF-State; 0.5 FTE)

**Continuum of Care**

Children and youth with complex behavioral issues need a continuum of care across state agencies and local providers. Funding is provided for 32 beds and agency administration costs at the Health Care Authority to create a short-term Residential Crisis Stabilization Program (RCSP) for youth with severe behavioral health diagnoses. The capital budget includes appropriations for design and construction of a new facility that is anticipated to open in fiscal year 2024. A new facility that is anticipated to open in 2024. DDA will have additional staffing costs to provide case management, resources and other services for children and youth served in the facility. (\$168,000 total funds; \$84,000 GF-State; 0.5 FTE)

### **Transform Services for DDA Clients**

Forecast the need for community and residential services (including respite beds and crisis stabilization services), study Medicaid rates, and develop metrics for community residential providers and additional DDA services for a new caseload forecast. (\$160,000 GF-S; 1.0 FTE)

### **Financial Eligibility Staff**

Timely and accurate eligibility determinations are critical to improving access to services for clients with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Funding is provided for 22.3 FTE staff to complete financial eligibility determinations within the required 45-day timeframe, reduce the backlog of clients waiting for eligibility determination, and reduce wait times on the call center. (\$2.5M total funds; \$1.4M GF-State; 11.2 FTE)

### **HCBS Provider Development**

Home and community-based services (HCBS) providers help connect clients with disabilities to supportive community resources, provide supportive parenting services and offer short-term respite support to caregivers. Funding is provided to increase the hourly rates paid to providers of waiver services on April 1, 2022. Additionally, funding is provided for an assistive technology program manager. (\$2.8M total funds; \$1.9M GF-State; 0.5 FTE)

### **Enhanced Case Management**

Expand access to the enhanced case management program from 700 to 1,500 clients. This will include 50 FTE case managers to increase the program's capacity and reduce caseload ratios to one case manager per 30 clients. It also will enhance the Comprehensive Assessment Reporting and Evaluation system to provide automatic nursing referrals for clients in this program. (\$6.4M total funds; \$3.7M GF-State; 25.0 FTE)

### **Targeted Provider Rates**

Funding is provided to continue the COVID-19 rate enhancements to contracted providers that expire on December 31, 2021. The rate enhancements are reduced in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. (\$177.8M total funds; \$64.4 GF-State)

### **Community Residential Services Quality Assurance:**

Monitoring of services delivered to over 4,500 clients served in DDA contracted residential programs. The staffing is needed to meet assurances with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

Services to verify clients received services authorized on the Core and Community Protection Waivers. (\$545,000 total funds; \$308,000 GF-State; 2.0 FTE)

### **Transitional Care Management**

Coordinate transitions of care for 2 ,100 clients who move from one type of care setting to a new one. This includes ramping up staffing from 38 FTEs in fiscal year 2023 to 104 FTEs in fiscal year 2025 to create transition coordination teams, mobile diversion and rapid response teams, and enhanced support for providers. (\$8.5M total funds; \$4.8M GF-State; 19.2 FTE)

### **SEIU 1199 General Government**

The collective bargaining agreement includes a general wage increase of 3 .25% for fiscal year 2023 and a retention bonus payable in two equal installments. (\$1.3M total funds; \$724,000 GF-State)

### **Adult Family Homes CBA**

Funding is provided for implementation of an agreement reached between the governor and the adult family home council under the provisions of chapter 41.56 RCW for fiscal year 2023. (\$2.7M total funds; \$1.4M GF-State)

### **SEIU 775 In Home Providers and Agency Parity**

Funding is provided for the implementation of an agreement reached between the governor and the SEIU775NW and homecare agency parity for fiscal year 2023. (\$22.1M; \$12.4M GF-State)

----- **A few additional Governor’s Budget items positively impacting our clients, families and stakeholders include:**

## **Health Care Authority – Community Behavioral Health**

### **Expand services through tribal care management program**

Expand tribal primary care case management programs (PCCM). If tribes choose to further develop their PCCM program, they can expand the breadth of services and care coordination that they provide for tribal members. To compensate participating tribes for this increased responsibility, PCCM payments will increase from \$6 per member each month to \$40 per member each month. (\$136,000 GF-S; \$11.9 million GF-F).

### **Increase inpatient beds for children**

Increase the number of community contracted beds in the Children’s Long-Term Inpatient Program (CLIP) to improve bed access and availability for children who require intensive supports. (\$15.0M GF-State)

### **Youth inpatient navigators**

Youth inpatient navigators – through a partnership with Seattle Children’s Hospital – will help families and caregivers identify temporary, alternative services when a child who requires intensive supports can’t find a long-term, inpatient bed because of availability or geography issues. This will support children who need continued, intensive care. (\$4.6 million GF-S; \$891,000 GF-Federal)

Please remember, this is only the first step in the supplemental budget process. The budget may change over time, and we appreciate the Governor’s support in this initial step. The 60-day legislative session begins on January 10, 2022. During session, the House and Senate will each release a supplemental budget and from there a final conference operating budget will ultimately be passed by the Legislature. As we move through this process we will be meeting with stakeholders and will keep you posted on the budget status.

More detail can be found at the [OFM Budget website](#).

Thank you for your partnership as we focus to provide the most appropriate care possible to the clients we serve. We will continue to work each day to transform lives by providing support and fostering partnerships that empower people to live the lives they want.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Deborah Roberts  
Assistant Secretary

DSHS: *Transforming Lives*

## 2022 Bills of Interest for People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

Bill	Title	Brief Description	Sponsor	Committee	Status	Notes	Position
<b>Budget and Taxes</b>							
<a href="#">SB 5092</a>	Operating budget 2021-2023	2021-2023 fiscal supplemental operating appropriations	Sen Rolfes	S Ways & Means			
<a href="#">HB 1094</a>	Operating budget 2021-2023	2021-2023 fiscal supplemental operating appropriations	Rep Ormsby	H Appropriations			
<a href="#">SB 5651</a>	Capital budget 2021-2023	Capital budget - Housing Trust Fund	Sen Froct	S Ways & Means			
<a href="#">HB 1781</a>	Capital budget 2021-2023	Capital budget - Housing Trust Fund	Rep Tharinger	H Capital Budget			
<a href="#">HB 1247</a>	Property tax exemption in a mobile home park	Property tax exemption for persons with disabilities leasing land in a mobile home park	Rep Orcutt	H Finance		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1248</a>	Leased land to qualify for tax exemption	Allow leased land to qualify for a tax exemption for people with disabilities/others	Rep Orcutt	H Finance		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1789</a>	Adult family home exemption	Property tax exemption for AFHs serving people with IDD owned by a nonprofit	Rep Ramos	H Rules	2 Review		
<a href="#">SB 5935</a>	Adult family home exemption	Property tax exemption for AFHs serving people with IDD owned by a nonprofit	Sen Mullet				
<a href="#">HB 1965</a>	Property tax for DD/mental health	2 1/2 cents per \$1,000 on property tax for vets, people with DD or mental health needs	Rep Chapman	H Finance	PH 1/27		
<a href="#">SB 5391</a>	Increase income limit for property tax exempt	Increase income limit and exemption amount of property taxes for people with disabilities	Sen McCune	S Ways & Means		Need More Info	
<b>Medical/Medicaid</b>							
<a href="#">HB 1043</a>	Audiology & speech compact	Allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists from other states & online	Rep Leavitt	H Health Care & Wellness	PH 1/31 1:30	Exec 2/2 8:00	
<a href="#">HB 1047</a>	Hearing instruments/children	Require insurance coverage for hearing instruments for children and adolescents	Rep Wicks	H Health Care & Wellness			

The Arc of Washington State: Updated 1/30/2022

<a href="#">HB 1286</a>	<b>Psychology compact</b>	Increase access to psychologists by recognizing other state licenses, can use telecommunication	Rep Chambers	H Health Care & Wellness	PH 1/31 1:30	Exec 2/2 8:00	
<a href="#">HB 1347</a>	Exceptional foster care payments	For kids with certain behaviors, foster care rate be 1/3 of residential treatment program	Rep Caldier	H Children, Youth & Families			
<a href="#">HB 1610</a>	Occupational therapy compact	Increase access to occupational therapy by recognizing other state licenses	Rep Bateman	H Health Care & Wellness	PH 1/31 1:30		
<a href="#">HB 1645</a>	Medicaid payment methodology	Increase Medicaid payments for assisted living, adult residential care and enhanced ARC	Rep Bateman Sen Muzzall	H Appropriations			
<a href="#">HB 1646</a>	Dementia action collaborative	Reconvene the collaborative, includes DDA, look at the 2016 plan implementation and more	Rep Bateman	Passed House			
<a href="#">HB 2008</a>	Eliminate IQ scores (North Star Priority)	Eliminate use of IQ scores for eligibility in DDA for individuals with IDD, look for alternatives	Rep Taylor	H Housing, Human Services & Vets	Exec'd 1/28	*Clarify the Alternative	* 
<a href="#">HB 2082</a>	<b>Child care deserts</b>	Hire non-profit with IDD statewide org to assess child care needs around the state	Rep Klippert	H Children, Youth & Families	PH 1/31 1:30		
<a href="#">SB 5518</a>	Occupational therapy compact	Increase access to occupational therapy by recognizing other state licenses	Sen Muzzall	S Rules	2nd Reading		
<a href="#">SB 5529</a>	Self-directed care (DSHS request)	Removes requirement for personal aides (IP) doing self-directed care to be contracted by DSHS	Sen Cleveland	Passed Senate			
<a href="#">SB 5672</a>	Long-term services & supports trust	Refund premiums from deceased individual with dependent who has IDD to DD Endowment Trust	Sen Braun	S Health & Long Term Care			
<a href="#">SB 5745</a>	Personal Needs Allowance	Allow PNA of people on Waivers living at home be no less than 300% of the fed benefit rate	Sen Liias	S Ways & Means			
<a href="#">SB 5819</a>	No Paid Services caseload (DSHS request)	Hire 2 full-time case managers for NPS, identify services wanted within the next year, report	Sen Braun	S Health & Long Term Care	Exec 1/31 1:30		
<a href="#">SB 5848</a>	Music therapy	Create advisory committee to develop regulations, license fees; issue licenses	Sen Cleveland	S Health & Long Term Care	PH 1/31 1:30		
<a href="#">SB 5886</a>	Rare Diseases	Create an advisory council for rare diseases	Sen Holy	S Health & Long Term Care	PH 1/31 1:30		
<a href="#">SB 5889</a>	Mental health wellness	Have insurance cover annual mental health wellness exam	Sen Das	S Health & Long Term Care			
<a href="#">SB 5912</a>	Children on Medicaid	Align early periodic screening, diagnosis & treatment with Bright Futures guidelines of AAP	Sen Seftik	S Health & Long Term Care	Exec'd 1/28		

**Education**

The Arc of Washington State: Updated 1/30/2022

<a href="#">HB 1153</a>	Increasing language access in public schools	Establish and implement a language access technical assistance program	Rep Orwall	H Appropriations	Exec'd 1/27		
<a href="#">HB 1451</a>	Delay entitlement date for early childhood ed	Delay entitlement for full day ECEAP until 2026-27 school year, report due 9/2022	Rep Sullivan	H Appropriations		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1664</a>	Prototypical school formula	Prototypical school formula for physical, social, and emotional support in schools	Rep Rule	H Appropriations	PH 2/1 3:30		
<a href="#">HB 1834</a>	Student excused absence	Mental health reasons be added as an excused absence for students	Rep Callan	H Education	Exec'd 1/27		
<a href="#">HB 1985</a>	Prototypical school formula (OFM Request)	Allocations can only be used for physical, social and emotional support staff	Rep Dolan	H Education			
<a href="#">HB 2016</a>	Sexual health education (North Star Priority)	Include teaching students how to avoid being recruited for sex trafficking-amend to include IDD?	Rep Morgan	H Education		Include IDD	
<a href="#">HB 2054</a>	School bus monitoring (North Star Priority)	All school buses for students with disabilities must keep buvideos for one year	Rep Jacobsen	H Education			
<a href="#">SB 5153</a>	School attendance	For absences, conference with parents, IEP team members, provide language supports	Sen C. Wilson	H Education			
<a href="#">SB 5376</a>	Promote Office of Education Ombuds	Provide info/contact for OEO to parents, students, includes students with disabilities	Sen C. Wilson	H Education			
<a href="#">SB 5595</a>	Prototypical school formula (OFM Request)	Prototypical school formula for physical, social, and emotional support in schools	Sen Wellman	S Ways & Means	PH 1/31 4:00		
<a href="#">SB 5630</a>	Early learning	Include early learning as part of basic education, establish robust system of early learning B-8	Sen Hasegawa	S Early Learning & K12 Education			
<b>Employment &amp; Day Services</b>							
<a href="#">HB 1872</a>	Care Worker Center	Support success of care workers for child care, LTC and people with disabilities, (Direct Support Prof)	Rep Senn	H Appropriations		Amend to add DSP	
<a href="#">HB 1980</a>	Dual services (North Star Priority)	Allow employment services and community access concurrently	Rep Taylor	H Housing, Human Services & Vets	Exec'd 1/28		
<a href="#">SB 5763</a>	Repeal sub-minimum wage certificates	Repeal statue for L&I to issue certificates for sub-minimum wages to people with disabilities	Sen Randall	S Rules	2nd Reading		
<a href="#">SB 5790</a>	Community supports (North Star Priority)	Increase employment and Community Inclusion rates, establish school to work in all counties	Sen Braun	S Health & Long Term Care	Exec 1/31 1:30		
<b>Civil Rights/Legal</b>							

The Arc of Washington State: Updated 1/30/2022

<a href="#">HB 1048</a>	Criminal mistreatment	Remove specific religious references for criminal mistreatment of vulnerable adults	Rep Wicks	H Rules	2 Review	Advocates Disagree	
<a href="#">HB 1071</a>	Concerning bias-based criminal offenses	Higher sentence if motivated by mental, physical, or sensory disability and more	Rep Valdez	H Public Safety		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1197</a>	Health care decisions by a designated person	Designate someone to make health care decisions verbally to doctor, put in record	Rep Riccelli	H Civil Rights and Judiciary		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1723</a>	Digital equity	Increase access and affordability to internet, help with skills for people with disabilities	Rep Gregerson	H Appropriations	Exec 2/1 3:30		
<a href="#">HB 1773</a>	Assisted outpatient treatment	Court can allow assisted outpatient treatment for people with mental health needs (includes DD)	Rep Taylor	H Civil Rights and Judiciary	Exec'd 1/28	Need More Info	
<a href="#">NB 1784</a>	Vehicle license plates	Exemption: license plate may be blocked by wheelchair carrier or wheelchair lift	Rep Thai	H Transportation	PH 1/18		
<a href="#">HB 1800</a>	<b>Access to behavioral health for minors</b>	Hire 1 FTE; create Parent Portal with parents, caregivers, youth, young adult stakeholders	Rep Eslick	H Appropriations	PH 2/1 3:30		
<a href="#">HB 1802</a>	Nothing About Us Without Us Act	Any task force, committee, workgroup related to people with disabilities must have them on it	Rep Pollet	H Rules	2 Review		
<a href="#">HB 1890</a>	Behavioral health workgroup	Modify children/youth behavioral health wrkgrp, allow \$200/day for lived experience members	Rep Callan	H Appropriations	PH 2/1 3:30		
<a href="#">HB 2083</a>	Consent LTC services	Persons authorized to give consent for health care can also give consent for long term care	Rep Macri	H Civil Rights and Judiciary	Exec 2/2 10:00		
<a href="#">SB 5793</a>	Stipends for state workgroups, etc.	Allow \$200/day for underrepresented/low income people on any state group	Sen C. Wilson	S Ways & Means	PH 2/4 9:00		
<b>Residential Services</b>							
<del><a href="#">HB 1043</a></del> <del><a href="#">SB 5150</a></del> <a href="#">SB 5150</a>	Residential services rate	Use King County provider rate for Snohomish County	Rep Lovick Sen Liias	H Appropriations S Ways & Means		Advocates Disagree	
<a href="#">HB 1490</a>	Maintain residential electricity/heating	No termination at any time for people with disabilities unable to pay a bill	Rep Harris-Talley	H Environment and Energy		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1724</a>	Housing opportunities	Maximize creation of high quality housing for people with disabilities across the state	Rep Macri	H Appropriations		Need More Info	
<a href="#">HB 1866</a>	Supportive housing	Supportive housing for people in community support services & medical assistance programs	Rep Chopp	H Health Care & Wellness	Exec 2/2 8:00		
<a href="#">SB 5268</a>	Transform services for people with DD	Transform services for people with DD in community residential, redesign ICFs	Sen Keiser	H Housing, Human Services & Vets			

The Arc of Washington State: Updated 1/30/2022

<a href="#">SB 5606</a>	Adult Family Homes	One-time grants to install air conditioning in AFHs that serve those funded through Medicaid	Sen Mullet	S Ways & Means			
<a href="#">SB 5938</a>	Closure of RHCs	Plan to close all RHCs by 12/31/2028, decrease by 20% each year starting 6/30/2025	Sen Braun	S Health & Long Term Care		*Need \$ & Housing	 
Budget Proviso	Enhanced behavior supports	Create workgroup for residential home model for enhanced behavior supports for those w/IDD	Rep Leavitt	Operating Budget			
Budget Proviso	Child care deserts	Hire non-profit with IDD statewide org to assess child care needs around the state	Rep Klippert	Operating Budget			
Budget Proviso	North Star Priority: Day Services	Budget proviso request for Community Engagement to increase to \$43.17 per hour	Sen Braun	Operating Budget			
Budget Proviso	North Star Priority: Civil Rights	Budget proviso to create a safety and supports workgroup	Rep Taylor	Operating Budget			
Cut-off dates: 1st Policy cut-off Feb 3rd (except fiscal & Transportation committees); 1st fiscal committee cut-off Feb 7th; House of Origin Feb 15th; 2nd Policy cut-off Feb 24th; 2nd fiscal committee cut-off February 28th; Opposite House March 4th (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session). Last day of the 2022 session is March 10th.							
Support 	Oppose 	Under Review 	NTIB 	Bill Died 	PH=Public Hearing, Exec/(E)=Executive Action, NTIB=Necessary to Implement the Budget, S=Senate, H=House of Representatives, Bold is newly added this week.		
The Arc of Washington State ~ <a href="http://www.arcwa.org">www.arcwa.org</a> ~ (888) 754-8798							



# SSB 6429 Disability and Medical Designations Update

Developmental Disabilities Administration  
January 6, 2022

## Disability designations and medical alerts now offered by DOL

The Department of Licensing has been working on [SSB 6429](#), a bill that passed the Washington State Legislature in 2020 and took effect January 1, 2022. This allows individuals in Washington to voluntarily add a designation to their driver license or ID card when they:

- Have a developmental disability.
- Are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Have a medical condition that could affect their communication or account for a medical emergency.

The intent of the bill is to ensure that first responders, such as law enforcement and emergency medical service providers, have the information they need at traffic stops and in medical emergencies on roadways.

For more information, click on one of the links below:

[Disability Designations and Medical Alert for Driver Licenses and ID Card](#)

[Designacion de Discapacidad en las Licencias de Conducir y Tarjetas de ID](#)



# Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Developmental Disabilities Administration  
Jan. 21, 2022

## Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Limit of one order per residential address
- One order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests
- Orders will ship free starting in late January

Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Click [here](#) to order your tests!

*Note: These tests may not replace testing required in employment settings, including residential service settings.*

**The Washington State Department of Health** launched a statewide online portal for residents to order five rapid-antigen COVID tests per household that will be shipped at no cost. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3qOrlc7>

Tests can be ordered here:

- [sayyescovidhometest.org](https://sayyescovidhometest.org) (English)
- [sayyescovidhometest.org/casa.html](https://sayyescovidhometest.org/casa.html) (Spanish)



◆ If you need a COVID test immediately, please see Kitsap Public Health's list of Kitsap County testing providers at [kcowa.us/gettested](https://kcowa.us/gettested)

◆ Report positive test results from an at-home test through the state's COVID-19 hotline at 800-525-0127.



# Affordable Connectivity Program

Developmental Disabilities Administration  
Jan. 11, 2022

## FFC Affordable Connectivity Program

On Dec. 31, the Federal Communications Commission launched the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#). This program, created by Congress in the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, is a longer-term replacement for the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. This investment in broadband affordability will help ensure households can afford the internet connections they need for work, school, health care and more.

The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

[Enrollment](#) in the ACP is now open for households with at least one member qualifying under any of the following criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the [federal poverty guidelines](#).
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or [Lifeline](#).
- Participates in tribal-specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

The 9 million households fully enrolled in the EBB program as of Dec. 31, 2021, will continue to receive their current monthly benefit until March 1, 2022. More information about steps

current EBB recipients must take to continue receiving the ACP benefit after March 1, 2022, will be available in the coming weeks.

**For application questions, email [ACPSupport@usac.org](mailto:ACPSupport@usac.org) or call 877-384-2575.**