Inclusion on the line:
Cuts to Medicaid long-term supports

Updated 11/5/2020
WHAT WE DO IN ADVOCACY

Civic engagement and leadership
https://arcofkingcounty.org/advocacy/

- Help people understand what is going on
- Help people connect with leaders to share how decisions affect their lives
- We help make systems of support better

Goal: Informed public policy and investments for a strong, stable safety net and inclusive communities

Public policy =
1. Support/laws for public, and
2. Informed BY the public
WASHINGTON HAS A BIG BUDGET GAP

This means the state does not have the money to pay for the support people need.
No Money = Cuts to Supports

The state relies on money from taxes to pay for schools, healthcare, housing and food aid, disability supports, and more.
Big Problem

• When everyone had to stop working and stay home, it meant they did not buy things, and the state didn’t collect as much in taxes.

• This problem affects all kinds of support. But right now, we are most worried about cuts to disability supports.
#IAmNotOptional

• Not clear what action, if any, will be taken on the CURRENT budget. It still has a $1.4 billion gap.

• Agencies submitted their asks for the NEXT budget to the governor. They were told (again) to identify 15% in savings.

  For DDA, that means a $601 million cut. For ALTSA, $1.1 billion

**Proposed DDA cuts - FY 2021-23**

- Furlough savings: $38,700,000
- General wage savings: $892,000
- RHC closure: $36,800,000
- Provider rate cuts: $34,200,000
- Client eligibility cuts: $490,000,000

DDA says 8,154 clients would lose support due to eligibility cuts. (50 would lose RHC services; the rest would be community support)
30 percent of DDA clients supported in the community would lose ALL support

That is about 1 in 3 people who have a waiver through DDA or DDA clients who get personal care through Community First Choice

- If you get employment or residential support - this affects you
- If your family gets respite hours - this affects you
- If you get personal care - this affects you
- If you live in an adult family home, or a group home, this affects you

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed ALTSA cuts - FY 2021-23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furlough savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General wage savings</td>
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<td>Rental subsidies</td>
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<td>Provider rate cuts</td>
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<td>Client eligibility cuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>$36,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$22,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>145,200,000</td>
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<td>805,300,000</td>
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</table>

ALTSA says 12,000 clients would lose service
It’s Not a Service. It’s My Life

The proposed cut that most alarms us is changing the eligibility requirements for long-term services.

It means **people could lose the support they need** to live in the community. People cut would lose ALL long-term support
For People with Disabilities, This Could Mean:

- Losing your job, and connections to friends
- Losing mobility, and being hospitalized
- Losing your home, because you can’t live independently

More people may experience **health crisis**
More families may face **economic crises**

Community supports are a lifeline
• It is not clear who is most at risk under the DDA scenario. DDA said it looked at subfactors and tried to protect some. But ultimately their eligibility change was based on how much they had to cut.

• There seems to be an assumption that people who need more types of care are more vulnerable (say 3, instead of 2). Certain factors appear to have more weight than others. It is not clear what those factors are.

• NOTE: Some DDA clients also have ALTSA support. Adult Family Homes are through ALTSA. In ALTSA proposed cuts, 305 DDA clients living in an AFH would lose their AFH eligibility.
DDA MATH:

976 on Core waiver
2,878 on Basic Plus waiver
6 on Children’s CIIBS waiver
221 on Community Protection waiver
1,929 on Individual and Family Services waiver
2,094 on Community First Choice (only)
50 served in Residential Habilitation Centers

8,154 individuals would lose all services from the Developmental Disability Administration if recommended cuts go through (Updated 1019/20)
Basic Plus is the waiver that gives young adults access to job support. Under the proposed scenario, 35% of clients losing support would be clients on the Basic Plus waiver. Going forward, it would be very difficult to qualify.
Dollar impact on programs

Just over half of the DDA "savings" would come from cuts to Community Residential services, which mostly funds Supported Living.
23% of all DDA clients would lose support. That increases to 30% of clients getting community supports.
“Waivers” offer a menu of supports

Following are ones on the Individual and Family Services (IFS) waiver. Basic Plus is similar, but also offers employment support. Core offers both employment and residential support.

- Respite Care (Break to the Caregiver)
- Behavior support and consultation
- Assistive Technology
- Community Engagement
- Speech, Hearing and Language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Environmental accessibility modifications
- Vehicle modifications
- Specialized medical equipment and supplies
- Specialized clothing
- Therapeutic equipment and supplies
- Transportation
- Specialized psychiatric services
- Staff/Family consultation & training
- Nurse delegation
- Skilled nursing
- Psychosexual evaluation
- Peer mentoring
- Person centered planning facilitation
- Supported parenting service
- Wellness Education Letter
- Specialized Habilitation
Models show people at risk of losing all support have “Classification Levels” up to E assessment. In this sample, the person is an A Low.

| SUMMARY |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                        | Assessed on:           | 07/24/2019             | 07/02/2020             |
| Total hours per month  |                        | 22                     | 22                     |
| Classification Group   |                        | A Low                  | A Low                  |
| ADL score              |                        | 1                      | 1                      |
| Mood & Behaviors       |                        | No                     | No                     |
| Behavior Points Score  |                        | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| CPS Score              |                        | 2                      | 2                      |
| Clinically Complex     |                        | No                     | No                     |
| Exceptional Care       |                        | No                     | No                     |
The models show people at the highest classification levels losing **ALL** support. When asked which factors determined winners and losers, DDA could not answer. “It’s not that simple.”
Client eligibility proposals: 
https://arcofkingcounty.org/file_download/6ba424a1-3d83-48a7-81cd-69eb1ccab19e

<table>
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<th>Supp Living Classification</th>
<th>Estimated Client Count</th>
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<td>3A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Group Home Classification</th>
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<td>3B</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total** 1,052

This shows the Supported Living and Group Home classifications for Community Residential; they show cuts up to level 6.
A L T S A
R A T I O N A L E
F O R
C U T S

• Eliminated Medical Personal Care program
• Added additional activities for daily living requirement (for most, from 3 to 4)
• Most impacts people whose need for services are primarily due to cognitive support (behavioral health, traumatic brain injury, early diagnosis of dementia, etc)
## Modeling of MPC Elimination and NFLOC Eligibility Change By Setting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Reduction-Scenario</th>
<th>Feb2020 FC</th>
<th>% Reduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Client</td>
<td>FY Total</td>
<td>FY GF-State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assisted Living</td>
<td>1,415</td>
<td>$20,257,000</td>
<td>$9,054,000</td>
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<td>ARC/EARC/Dementia</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>$16,301,000</td>
<td>$7,287,000</td>
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<td>ESF</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$3,650,000</td>
<td>$1,631,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFH</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>$26,666,000</td>
<td>$11,919,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PACE</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>$7,179,000</td>
<td>$3,561,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Home</td>
<td>6,336</td>
<td>$81,114,000</td>
<td>$36,257,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancillaries and Additional svc</td>
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<td>$8,678,000</td>
<td>$3,878,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total HCS</td>
<td>9,260</td>
<td>$163,845,000</td>
<td>$73,587,000</td>
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There would be up to 2,800 people in Skilled Nursing Facilities who would no longer meet NFLOC, saving $221,848,000 ($110,924,000 GF-State) annually.

This shows where ALTSA sees cuts coming from. (ESF = Enhanced Services Facility. HCS = Home and Community Services. AFH = Adult Family Home. Most people affected get support in the home)
ALTSA acuity levels and cuts. These go to C Medium. ALTSA uses the Nursing Facility Level of Care assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acuity Order</th>
<th>Acuity</th>
<th>Assisted Living</th>
<th>ARC/EARC/Dementia</th>
<th>ESF</th>
<th>PACE</th>
<th>AFH</th>
<th>HC Agencies</th>
<th>Individual Provider</th>
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<tr>
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<td>115</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>523</td>
<td>336</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>298</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>573</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>1,732</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>B Med</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>151</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>916</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>C Low</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>A High</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>244</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>D Low</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>B High</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,415</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>3,475</td>
<td>2,922</td>
<td>9,260</td>
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</table>
CLOCK HAS STARTED

This is step 1 of the budget process:

- Agencies send proposals to the governor
- The governor sends a proposed budget to the legislature
- Legislators write and vote on the final budget
- Governor can veto all or parts

Stay engaged. Be loud
Is There Help?

• There is some federal stimulus money, but there are lots of rules about what it can be used for.
• There is state money set aside for emergencies, but there is not enough to fix the problem.
Is There Help?

• Advocates asked Congress to fund more home and community-based services. These are another name for DDA waiver services.

• So far, Congress has not increased those funds.

• Even if they did, Washington would lose out if they cut eligibility. Funds come as a match
OTHER CUTS: REDUCE PROVIDER RATES

• In-home providers
• Adult Family Homes
• Employment support and community integration
• Destabilizes workforce
OTHER CUTS: CLOSE A RESIDENTIAL HABILITATION CENTER

• Options include: Reduce staff positions, consolidate cottages; and close Rainier School entirely.

• Closing Rainier and transitioning clients costs more in FY21, but leads to savings in the next biennium.
OTHER CUTS: STAFFING COSTS

• Affects state DDA employees, not Direct Service Providers
• Unpaid furlough days. Now in effect
OPTIONAL MEDICAID SERVICES AT RISK

- Adult dental
- Interpreter services
- Therapies: OT/PT/ST
- Hospice, breast and cervical cancer treatment, and more
VALUE OF SAFETY NETS

• Supports help people build **connections and resiliency**

• Safety nets catch people, so they don’t fall into crisis

• **ALL SERVICES ARE CRITICAL** - even if support means just a few hours a week. When you cut support, you push people into another “system,” such as homelessness response.
No Decisions, Yet

• State leaders have not decided, yet, to pull people off long-term supports

• But we are worried they will make it more difficult for people to get the support they need to live and be a part of their community - in the next few years and for many years to come
QUESTIONS?
We Need Your Help

We want to make sure people who cut supports understand they will hurt people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and the workers who support them

✓ You can help:  **Share your story. Be loud.**
CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

At a minimum, send each of them a note. You can also ask to meet with them.

Plan on several letters/calls:

• NOW

• When the governor releases his budget proposal (mid-December to January)

• Midway through session (mid-February)

• Toward end of session, when budget negotiations heat up (End of March)
What to do? Contact legislators

https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/
Cuts to DDA are not savings!

- **Strategic Services** system supports people with developmental disabilities in homes.
  - **Proposed DDA cuts - FY 2021-23**
    - Support services: $1,000,000
    - Supported living: $1,500,000
    - Direct support: $1,200,000
    - Total savings: $3,700,000

- **Client Impact**:
  - *Provision of care*: decrease by 10%, requiring more staff.
  - *Elimination of services*: decrease by 5%, affecting quality of care.

- **Support Needs**:
  - *Client advocacy*: increase by 20%, requiring additional resources.
  - *Service coordination*: decrease by 10%, affecting timely access to services.

**The impact**. When people access services through DDA, they are supported to maintain health, safety, and independence. DDA cuts could negatively affect the support network and quality of life for DDA clients.

**Solving supports the waiver type, OHC or CPC**

**It’s not a service. It’s my life.** Without supports, those facing deepest poverty can lose everything.

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**Resource to Share**

https://arcofkingcounty.org/file_download/2a30b8f1-4b5f-4f03-bb57-56c7bf479de
What else can you do?

We want to make sure people who consider cutting Medicaid supports understand they will hurt many people AND make our communities a lot less inclusive. Long-term care is medical care, and social isolation has serious consequences on people’s health and well-being.

**Cuts would be devastating.**

- Contact the governor
- Consider signing up for The Arc of WA action alerts: https://arcwa.org/action-center/
What to say?

How to contact your legislator: 

Sample messages: https://arcwa.org/action-center/ (click on Cuts Cause Crisis and Petition to the Governor)

| Who are you? | • Name  
|             | • Your legislative district  
|             | • Any group affiliations, if appropriate |
| What is your issue? | • Describe your issue. Your legislators track many issues and may not know yours |
| Why do you care? | • Why does this matter to you?  
|             | • Why does it matter enough for you to take the time to write, call, or visit?  
|             | • How will it change your life? The lives of people you know?  
|             | • Tell a personal story |
| Why should I care? | • Why should your listener care?  
|             | • What is happening in their district, community? |
| What do you specifically want me to do about it? | • Always have a clear call to action — a “to-do”  
|             | • Always ask for an outcome or follow-up  
|             | • Be specific in your request — don’t ask for support — that is vague. Ask for a yes or no vote. Ask that they help get a bill heard in committee or brought up for a vote, etc  
|             | • Sometimes the best action you can hope for is keeping the dialogue open — ask if they would be willing to read some supporting materials and then get a follow up phone call from you |
Some Talking Points

• **41st ... and falling?** Washington’s system of supports for people with developmental disabilities is fragile and inadequate, serving less than 30 percent of the people it should*. The DDA budget is built off current expenses, not on increasing or unmet need, or even on numbers who qualify. Our state is 41st in spending, has high case manager ratios (1 to 75), and already rations care, leaving thousands waiting for essential access to health, housing, education, and jobs.

• **15% cuts are really 30%** once you factor in loss of matching federal dollars. And the impact can feel even greater. Demand for emergency care and housing, food, and behavioral health supports all jump when long-term supports are cut.

• **Deepest poverty.** People with a cognitive/behavioral disability face the highest rates of poverty in the state. These folks make up the core of people with developmental disabilities. For those who rely on them, supports are so much more than safety and security:
  - Personal care literally means being able to get out of bed
  - Residential support means access to a home
  - Employment support means access to jobs
SOME TALKING POINTS

• **The domino effect.** When people secure a waiver through DDA they also secure Medicaid Apple Health, food benefits, and in King County, possibly mental health support via Sound. Home and job are often directly tied to supports.

• **One event away from crisis.** ALL clients need the support. Whether they need just 1 support once a week, or several 24/7, that support is what is keeping them – and their families – out of crisis. Cut support and hospitals/ERs see increases; institutional care increases; homelessness increases; and incarceration increases.

• **Ending chronic homelessness saves taxpayers money.** In King County, we know about two-thirds of the homeless population has a disability, and national research shows 30 to 40 percent of people experiencing homelessness have an intellectual disability. Research also shows that providing supportive housing cuts costs to society by almost half. So why would the state cut the supports that keep people with DD (and often their families) out of chronic homelessness?
Sign up for our advocacy newsletters, https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1894973/1898164/

Advocacy resources:

• King County Parent and Family Coalition:
  General advocacy for DD issues

• Community Change Champions:
  Advocacy support for people with disabilities

STAY IN TOUCH

Learn about all our resources – we also help people navigate services and consult with individuals and families. https://arcofkingcounty.org

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