

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

**Service Rate Increase and Utilization**

Community Engagement  
Supported Parenting  
Hourly Waiver Respite

ESSB 5693 Sec. 203 1(ff)  
Chapter 297, Laws of 2022

December 1, 2022

DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration  
Office of the Secretary  
PO Box 45310  
Olympia, WA 98504-5310  
(360) 407-1500  
[www.dshs.wa.gov/dda](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda)

## Executive Summary

In advance of the 2022 legislative session, the Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration requested funding to improve Home and Community-Based Services provider development. Funding was requested to increase the rates for Community Engagement, Supported Parenting and Hourly Waiver Respite to attract and retain staff and thereby enhance access to services.

ESSB 5693 Sec. 203 1(ff) was passed during the 2022 legislative session which:

1. Allocates funding solely for service rate increases paid to contracted providers of Community Engagement, Supported Parenting, and Respite services.
2. Requires a preliminary report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature that details how the funds were utilized and the associated outcomes, including a detailed accounting of utilization of services and any changes in the utilization as a result of this funding by Dec. 1, 2022.
3. Requires a final report by June 30, 2023.

## Background

The number of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are eligible for needed services on one of DDA’s Home and Community Based Services waivers has grown substantially over recent years. DDA appreciates the funding provided by the Legislature that funds additional capacity to support individuals and their families with services that complement treatments and services available through Apple Health. For sufficient provider capacity to deliver needed services to waiver participants rates must be sufficient to attract an adequate network of providers. Rates for hourly waiver services that are not collectively bargained have not kept pace with the provider’s cost of delivering services. The Legislature’s investment in these key waiver services is expected to improve the ability of providers to hire and retain staff and subsequently improve access to services for eligible individuals.

Service	Previous Hourly Rate	July 1, 2022 Hourly Rate	Approximate Percent Increase
Respite in Community Settings: Community Centers, Senior Centers, Summer Programs, Parks and Recreation	\$18.16	\$21.80	20%
Respite in Licensed Staff Residential	\$18.32	\$21.80	19%
Respite in Adult Day Care	\$11.36	\$13.60	20%
Respite in Adult Residential Care/Enhanced Adult Residential Care Respite in Foster Family Respite in Licensed Child Care Center or Home Child Care Center	\$10.44	\$13.60	30%
Community Engagement	\$26.72	\$ 34.72	30%
Supported Parenting	\$85.00	\$97.76	15%

## Methodology

This preliminary report provides information to show how rate increases have been implemented, as well as baseline utilization data. The final report submitted to the Legislature will use quantitative data to demonstrate changes to the provider network and utilization of services. As rate increases were implemented on July 1, 2022, and providers are not able to bill until after services have been provided, provider claims data to determine utilization is not mature enough to indicate changes to utilization.

## Community Engagement

Community Engagement is available on the Individual and Family Services and Basic Plus waivers. It is also available for individuals on the Core waiver if the person is not receiving residential habilitation services. It is designed to increase connection to and engagement in formal and informal community supports by connecting the participant to community resources. The amount of Community Engagement support hours is limited to funds available within the annual allocation on the Basic Plus and Individual and Family Services waivers. Community Engagement is one of many services a client may choose from within their annual waiver budget. Core waiver participant service hours are limited to the hours identified in their person-centered service plan based on need.

*Community Engagement is designed to increase connection to and engagement in community supports by connecting the participant to community resources.*



On June 30, 2022, 1,105 clients had an authorization for Community Engagement. Multiple variables may account for this utilization rate including but not limited to provider availability, knowledge about service availability or preference for other services.

As of June 30, 2022 there were 116 providers contracted to deliver Community Engagement. A rate increase of 30% was issued to Community Engagement providers on July 1, 2022.

Month of Service State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Clients Authorized*
SFY2018	786
SFY2019	1,295
SFY2020	1,466
SFY2021	1,351
SFY2022	1,485

*\*Note that Community Guide was merged into Community Engagement in 2020. Historical usage is unduplicated client counts for both services.*

## Supported Parenting

Supported Parenting is available on the Individual and Family Services waiver and, effective September 1, 2022, on the Core waiver. Supported Parenting is for Home and Community Based Services waiver participants who are parents or expectant parents and will benefit from teaching, parent coaching, and other supportive strategies in areas critical to parenting. Those areas include child development, nutrition and health, safety, child care, money management, time and household management, and housing.

*Supported parenting is invaluable to increase skills to help waiver participants successfully care for their baby or child.*



As of June 30, 2022, there were no open authorizations for Supported Parenting. Only a small number of DDA waiver participants have accessed this service in the past. Few DDA clients are eligible for this service as they are not parents or expectant parents but having this service available to those who need it is important. When needed, this service is invaluable to increase skills to help waiver participants successfully care for their baby or child. The amount of Supported Parenting hours is limited to funds available within the IFS waiver annual allocation. Supported Parenting is one of many services a client may choose from within their annual IFS waiver budget. Core waiver participants service hours are limited to the hours identified in their person-centered service plan based on need.

As of June 30, 2022, there were 12 providers contracted to deliver supported parenting. A rate increase of 15% was issued to Supported Parenting providers on July 1st, 2022. Supported Parenting provider qualifications and their scope of work mirror those in the waiver service Staff & Family Consultation. Rate increases align the rates for these services, and DDA encourages contractors to sign both contracts simultaneously.

Month of Service State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Supported Parenting
SFY2018	2
SFY2019	6
SFY2020	4
SFY2022	1

## Hourly Waiver Respite

Hourly Waiver Respite is available on the IFS, Basic Plus, Children’s Intensive In-Home Behavior Supports and Core waiver. It is designed to provide relief for a primary caregiver. 16,735 clients are currently eligible for waiver respite and 11,709 clients currently have waiver respite approved in their person-centered service plans. The amount of waiver respite hours is limited to funds available as part of the IFS waiver annual allocation or based on the assessed respite hours available on the Basic Plus, CIIBS, and Core waiver.



*Hourly respite is designed to provide relief for a primary caregiver.*

As of June 30, 2022, there were 263 Community Centers, Senior Centers, Summer Programs, Parks and Recreation, Licensed Staffed Residential, Adult Day Care, ARC/EARC, Foster Family and Licensed or Home Child Care Centers contracted to provide respite. On July 1, 2022, rate increases for various respite providers took effect: 19% for Respite Licensed Staffed Residential, 20% for Respite in Community Settings and Adult Day Care centers, and 30% for Adult Residential Center or Enhanced Adult Residential Care, Respite in Foster Family, Respite in Licensed Child Care Center, and Respite in a Home Child Care Centers.

Month of Service State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Agency Respite
SFY2018	1,882
SFY2019	2,843
SFY2020	3,668
SFY2021	2,144
SFY2022	2,792

## Conclusion

After review of quantitative data, DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration will provide the Legislature with a final report by June 30, 2023, demonstrating changes in the provider network and changes in utilization. This preliminary report provides baseline information of prior utilization upon which the final report will provide a comparison.

The final report will incorporate additional data collection and suggestions to address barriers to access and recommendations for future consideration.