

March 2024

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH (DDAM) 2024



WHAT IS DDAM?

March is Developmental Disabilities (DD) awareness month. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and its partners work together to provide a social media campaign that highlights ways people with and without disabilities can come together to form strong, diverse communities.

The purpose of the campaign is to bring awareness and include people with developmental disabilities into the community as well as highlight barriers they are presented with within their communities.

DDAM 2024 Theme: A World of Opportunities

“A World of Opportunities” – we’re celebrating people and working together to remove obstacles. Our goal is to build a community that’s committed to creating a world where everyone can do well and succeed. Join us in making a world where all kinds of people have the chance to thrive. (National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities)



What is a Developmental Disability?

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions that are due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. Approximately one in six children in the United States have one or more developmental disabilities or other developmental delays (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Examples (this list is not all inclusive):

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Fragile X Syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy
- Vision Impairment
- Developmental Delay
- Hearing Loss
- Epilepsy
- Intellectual Disability
- Another neurological or other condition similar to Intellectual Disability



Living with a Disability

Children and adults with disabilities need health care and health programs to stay well, active, and a part of the community. It is important for those with disabilities to receive routine healthcare.

There are services and programs available for those living with disabilities that can include personal care, respite, employment, residential supports, and much more. To see if you or someone you know qualify, you must apply to the local [WA State DSHS DDA](#) (developmental disabilities administration) to determine if you are eligible for services.



Resources

- [WA State DSHS DDA](#)
- [Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [NACDD](#)
- [DDA Assessment Process](#)
- [Road Map to Services/Supports](#)