

## Community Engagement

*External*



### Did you know the Department of Social and Health Services' Developmental Disabilities Administration has a service called Community Engagement?

Community Engagement connects you to activities, resources, events and services in the community that you may be interested in exploring. The service assists you to fully access your community and reduce social isolation.

Community Engagement is person-centered. It uses learning through experiences to:

- Connect you to community supports.
- Support you to communicate, socialize and interact with others.
- Increase your confidence to engage in events without continued support.
- Promote your involvement in a variety of activities.

### Community Engagement **Video**



### What are some examples of this service?

A Community Engagement provider might:

- Help the client find and secure an apartment or home, set up utilities or communicate with a landlord.

- Help them sign up for, attend or participate in local groups (social groups, senior centers, religious service or community college) or public community resources (the library, post office or public transportation).
- Help them participate in community activities like going to the mall, movie theatre, restaurant or park to learn skills naturally through experience.
- Facilitate the individual's connection to people in their community who share similar interests like art, music, games or sports.

### Where is Community Engagement delivered?

Community Engagement can be delivered in any setting you choose that supports full access to your community. Community Engagement can be provided in one-on-one settings as well as small groups, up to 4 people. More information is available in [DDA Policy 4.14](#).

### Who can receive this service?

You can access this service if you are enrolled on the Basic Plus waiver, Individual and Family Services waiver, Core waiver (non-residential), the Roads to Community Living grant or the Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review program.

### How do I find a provider for Community Engagement?

Contact your case resource manager and talk to them about your goals for getting out in the community. Your CRM will give you a list of currently contracted Community Engagement providers to choose from. If you decide the service is a good fit for you, your CRM can walk you through the process.

### What do I do when I find a provider?

Talk with the provider about your ideas, goals and needs. When you and the provider agree on a plan to meet your goals, let your CRM know which provider you chose and when you would like to start working with your provider. Your CRM will add Community Engagement and your chosen provider to your plan and send you a copy of your plan. Be sure to sign and return your plan to your CRM. The provider is responsible for scheduling days and times to work with you.

### What are the requirements of a Community Engagement provider?

- The Community Engagement provider will work with you to develop goals regarding connection in your community. They will work with you to strengthen skills and help with networking in the community for you to be more independent.
- Providers will also write progress reports every 90 days to show your progress in meeting the goals you have set for community engagement and connection. You get to give feedback for these reports.

### How many hours or dollars can a client receive in the plan year?

The funds available to you are determined by your program and DDA Annual Assessment.

### External resources:

<https://informingfamilies.org/ce-cg-overview/>

### Interested in becoming a provider?

If you are interested in becoming a contracted provider for a DDA service, **call your local DDA office and ask for the contracts department. Or go online to learn more.** [www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/counties-and-providers/developmental-disabilities-administration-counties-provider-information](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/counties-and-providers/developmental-disabilities-administration-counties-provider-information).

### Who is a qualified service provider?

Qualified providers of Community Engagement services must contract with DSHS to provide this service. Qualified provider types include:

- Registered recreational therapists in the state of Washington.
- Organizations that provide services to promote skill development, improved functioning, increased independence as well as reducing or eliminating the effects of illness or disability. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Community centers,
  - City parks and recreation programs.
  - Therapeutic recreation camps and programs.
  - Organizations that provide supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

OFFICE LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER
Everett	425-740-6500
Seattle	206-568-5685
Spokane	509-329-2900
Tacoma	253-404-5500
Tumwater	360-725-4250
Yakima	509-225-7970



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