

**FINAL 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

June 30, 2023

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# 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. Allocated funding solely for service rate increases paid to contracted providers of Community Engagement, Supported Parenting, and Respite services.
2. Required 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 [2022 report](#) to the Legislature provided baseline information on service utilization and demonstrated how the rate increases would be implemented.

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%

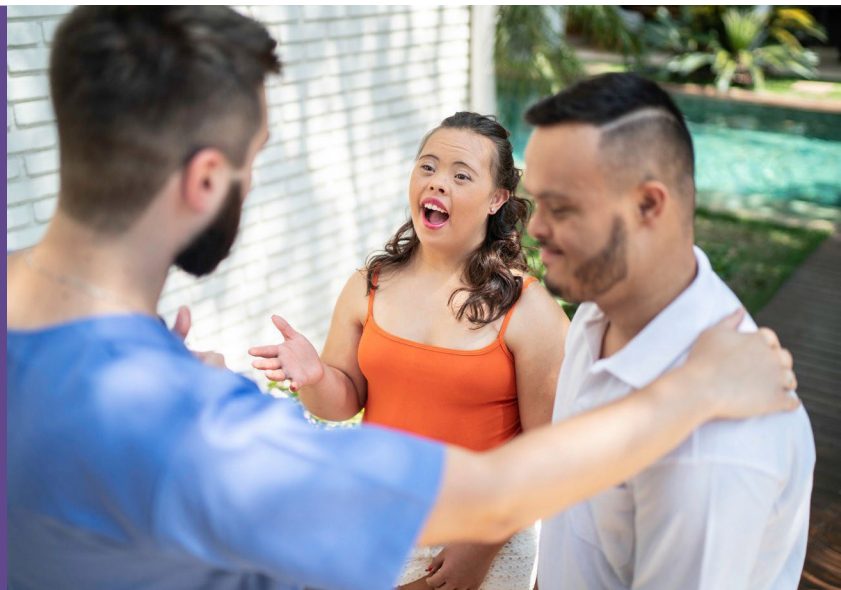
## Methodology

This final report includes updated data that shows changes to the provider network and utilization of services, as well as suggestions for addressing barriers to access and recommendations for future consideration.

## 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 April 30, 2023, 1,336 clients had an authorization for Community Engagement, which was an increase of over 20% in utilization from June 30, 2022 (1,105 clients).

The number of qualified providers also increased since the last report. As of April 30, 2023, there were 125 providers contracted to delivery Community Engagement, which was over a 7% increase from June 30, 2022 (116 providers).

Month of Service State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Clients Authorized*
SFY2018	786
SFY2019	1,295
SFY2020	1,466
SFY2021	1,351
SFY2022	1,485
SFY2023	1,677**

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

*\*\*Note that this number indicates the number of open authorizations between July 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023, not the complete fiscal year.*

## 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, childcare, 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 April 30, 2023, there were two clients with an authorization for Supported Parenting and 12 providers contracted to deliver the service. 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.

Month of Service State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Supported Parenting
SFY2018	2
SFY2019	6
SFY2020	4
SFY2022	1
SFY2023	2*

*\*Note that this number indicates the number of open authorizations between July 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023, not the complete fiscal year.*

## Hourly Waiver Respite

Hourly waiver respite is available on the Individual and Family Services, Basic Plus, Children’s Intensive In-Home Behavior Supports and Core waivers. It is designed to provide relief for a primary caregiver. As of April 30, 2023, 18,909 clients were eligible for hourly waiver respite (13% increase since June 2022) and 10,859 clients had 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.*

The number of contracted waiver respite providers also increased since June 2022 by over 11%. As of April 30, 2023, there were 293 Community Centers, Senior Centers, Summer Programs, Parks and Recreation, Licensed Staffed Residential, Adult Day Care, Adult Residential Care/ Enhanced Adult Residential Care, Foster Family and Licensed or Home Child Care Centers contracted to provide respite.

Month of Service State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Agency Respite
SFY2018	1,882
SFY2019	2,843
SFY2020	3,668
SFY2021	2,144
SFY2022	2,792
SFY2023	3,115*

*\*Note that this number indicates the number of open authorizations between July 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023, not the complete fiscal year.*

## Recommendations

DSHS’ Developmental Disabilities Administration is grateful for the approved rate increases, which resulted in increased service utilization and contracted providers for many of the services. To continue with this upward trend, DDA recommends increased efforts to educate DDA staff, clients, families, and providers about DDA services and contract availability. DDA also recommends additional regional staff dedicated to provider recruitment and retention efforts to accommodate the increasing need of service providers.