

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMIN Supported Living - Minimum Wage



2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	\$1,639,000	\$4,111,000	\$5,750,000
Total	\$3,278,000	\$8,221,000	\$11,499,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) requests \$11.5 million (\$5.8 million GF-State) to increase the rate for Supported Living (SL) providers in the City of Seattle to meet the new minimum wage law requirements, a \$13 per hour wage effective January 1, 2016 and a \$15 per hour wage effective January 1, 2017. The Supported Living Rate component will not allow providers in the City of Seattle to be in compliance with the new law without a rate increase.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Supported Living services offer instruction and support to persons who live in their own homes in the community. Supports may vary from a few hours per month up to 24 hours per day of one-on-one support. Clients pay their own rent, food, and other personal expenses. DDA contracts with private agencies to provide Supported Living services. Without these services many, if not most, SL clients would live in a Residential Habilitation Center. There is already a problem recruiting SL employees, especially when Individual Providers start out at a higher wage for very similar work. This is particularly true in Seattle, which has the most employment opportunities in the state.

Currently, the formula for the DDA SL providers assumes a starting wage of \$11.42 in FY16 and \$11.67 in FY17. Despite recruitment and retention issues, the true need for the additional funding is that the providers will not be able to offer employment at a legal wage as of January 2016 without a rate increase.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The SL rate for those providing services in the City of Seattle needs to increase by \$2.28 as of January 2016, increasing the wage for new employees to \$13 per hour, and providing an incremental increase for experienced workers and supervisors to avoid compression issues. As of January 2017, the rate increases \$3.43 from the current level. The wage for new workers increases to \$15 per hour with an incremental increase for more experienced workers and supervisors.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The increased wage portion of the rate will allow SL providers to continue providing services for people with developmental disabilities in a community setting without violating the law.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The SL providers and advocates for people with developmental disabilities, including the ARC of Washington and the Developmental Disabilities Council will all support the rate increase. No opposition expected.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service