

“Working Age Adults Work”

What Does This Really Mean?

Who is included?

Every person over the age of 21 and under the age of 62 who is on a DDD waiver or funded by counties.

What has changed?

All county funding, which was once spent in categories such as “specialized industries,” “person to person,” “group supported employment,” and “individual supported employment” will be focused on helping people who are funded to find an integrated community job for real pay.

Why is getting a job so important?

Being productive is important to all of us. It is the difference between being poor and having some money to buy what you want and do what you want. It is also an expectation for all adults.

How does it work?

Most everyone has been moved onto a “Pathway to Employment” with individualized plans to help them progress towards “real” jobs.

What is a pathway to employment?

A Pathway to Employment is a plan to help people who are currently not working or still in workshops to move towards individual community employment.



continued on other side >

If you have questions:

Call your case manager or see our website at:
www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/index.shtml



Is there a timeline for me to find a job, or I will lose my county funding?

No, there is no timeline. For some people, just a little bit of support will help them find a good job. For others it may take years of trying and planning, but the goal will always be individual employment.

Does that mean you are closing workshops and stopping community access services?

No, it means that they may be one step on the pathway, but that their purpose is to help a person move towards the goal of a meaningful job in the community.

What if I don't want to change? Are there any exceptions?

No one is forced to work, but the county funding is going to be spent upon those who do want to work. DDD Case Managers will help people who don't want to work look for other community resources.

What if I am ready to retire?

At that point, defined as age 62 unless there are physical reasons to retire sooner, funding for employment supports will be available for community activities.

I have more questions, what should I do?

Call your DDD case manager or your county coordinator and ask for more details.