

A Path Forward

Planning the Future of Developmental Disabilities Services

Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code to take the survey.



Why Are We Doing This?

The Washington State Legislature has issued a call to action: Bring people together to build a long-term plan that will transform and shape the future of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. To do this, our goal is to:

1. Work with people with lived experience and decision makers.
2. Identify how to reduce the need for large institutional care settings.
3. Make community-based services easier to find and use.
4. Improve service access and opportunity.
5. Find out what is needed to strengthen services, supports, and the workforce.

Goals for Success

People Feel Heard

- The community has opportunities to share ideas and experiences.

People Shape the Plan

- The plan reflects what the community says.

People Support the Plan

- The plan reflects community priorities. A plan everyone can “get behind”.

Create an Actionable Plan

- Provide legislators with community priorities for necessary policy and funding decisions.

Community Steering Committee

A group of people with lived/living experience and advocates are participating in the steering committee. The committee is assisting with the design of the outreach plan and helping us connect with community members. They will help ensure the community is included, heard, and reflected in the plan. Their input and guidance will help create a plan the community can support.

Ways to Participate

Oct. 2026



Take a [web survey](#) and share your ideas and experiences.



Share your ideas and experiences by [email](#) at ApathForward@dshs.wa.gov.



Attend community discovery sessions.

Oct. 2026 – Mar. 2027



Invite people with lived experience, caregivers, and organizations to participate.

Jan. – Mar. 2027



Attend opportunities to provide feedback on the long-term plan and what it should say.