



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration
PO Box 45600
Olympia, WA 98504-5600

Dear Family Member,

The Department of Social and Health Services' Developmental Disabilities Administration is excited to announce the creation of the DDA Family Advisory Council. This Council reflects DDA's ongoing commitment to have those with lived experience help guide our work.

The DDA Guiding Values (Inclusion ~ Status and Contribution ~ Relationships Power and Choice ~ Health and Safety ~ Competence) drive the services and supports available in Washington state, and we recognize that family members and self-advocates are at the heart of these values.

The mission of the Family Advisory Council will be to ensure that the programs, policies and procedures of DDA reflect the experiences, wisdom and advocacy of the family members of DDA eligible clients. Council members will have opportunities to provide suggestions on how to improve the quality and effectiveness of our programs, while DDA staff will seek input from the Council to ensure robust, transparent, accessible communication with eligible individuals and their families.

As we strive to be inclusive of all DDA families across Washington state, we want to ensure there is a broad representation that encompasses cultural, language and racial diversity, to include a wide range of developmental disabilities, with varying levels of support that reflect client needs across their lifespan. The Family Advisory Council will be comprised of 15 family members who meet one or more of the following criteria:

Family member of a DDA eligible person	Representation from:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With significant disabilities.• Under the age of 18.• Over the age of 18.• Who is a sibling/grandchild.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community members.• English as a Second Language communities.• Each of DDA's three regions.• Urban and rural communities.

Please note employees of DDA are not eligible to serve on the Family Advisory Council.

Council appointments will be for a two-year term and members are asked to commit to participating in two-hour monthly meetings, recurring on a specified date as determined by the Family Advisory Council. Members will be asked to connect with and gather information from their communities to ensure the representation of all [DDA supported] families and their breadth of experiences.

If you would like to serve on the Family Advisory Council, please use the link below to apply. Applications will be accepted through the end of September 2023 and will be reviewed by panelists

consisting of family members who are not a part of this application process, a representative from DSHS Secretary Jilma Meneses' office and a representative of a partner program from within DSHS. To ensure impartiality, the panel will receive all applications without names attached.

Application Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FC2SKQZ>

We are looking forward to partnering with you to make sure our clients are safe, healthy and getting the support they need to live the lives they want to live.

Please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Program Manager, Michelle Sturdevant-Case at michelle.sturdevant-case@dshs.wa.gov or 360.480.0718 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Sturdevant