

# Washington State Family to Family Health Information Center



## Newsletter #17 – July 2022

### The First Step in Applying for DDA

The [Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration](#) (DDA) is responsible [for many of the services](#) available for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and are responsible for administering many of the [Medicaid waivers](#) that provide vital services to families who have members who have a developmental disability. [Applying to DDA can be a long process](#), but most families, especially those who are on Apple Health or Medicaid, will need to go through this process in order to receive these services they require, such as respite, physical therapy, behavioral health help, and stabilization services.

The first, and often most laborious, task in receiving services from DDA is receiving an official diagnosis. This must be done before the individual with the developmental disability is 18 years old. The developmental disability must be expected to continue indefinitely and constitute a substantial limitation to the person. Washington State determines these conditions as: “Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, or another neurological or other condition closely related to an intellectual disability or that requires support similar to individuals with intellectual disabilities.”

Only a medical professional can officially diagnose a disability, meaning that a doctor or psychiatrist needs to be consulted. While some of the aforementioned conditions are diagnosed in one or two visits, some can take years and a variety of specialists to diagnose. Some of the cognitive tests to prove eligibility include those that can be administered in school by a psychologist or through a medical provider. They include: Stanford-Binet, Wechsler Intelligence Scales (WISC), Differential Abilities Scale (DAS), Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (K-ABC), Das-Naglieri Cognitive Assessment System (CAS), Woodcock Johnson Test of Cognitive Abilities (WJ), and Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (RIAS 2). The specific test used may change overtime, so do check with the [latest eligibility requirements from the DDA](#).

Different conditions are eligible for DDA support during different developmental periods. Support for babies, toddlers, and children with developmental delays are available for individuals up to a child’s 10th birthday. Individuals aged four and older with any other condition connected to intellectual disabilities are eligible for DDA services. For a full list of supported conditions, age ranges supported, and acceptable tests for diagnosis, visit the [DDA site on eligibility](#).

Once a diagnosis is official, several forms must be filled out and returned to the DDA to be approved for services, which can be viewed at the [DDA eligibility website](#). In particular, the [Request for DDA Eligibility Determination](#) contains most of the important questions, and can be reviewed in advance of gathering information to start the DDA process. For more information on filing the right paperwork, view PAVE’s [DDA Access Eligibility](#) video about finding all the forms you need to submit. Informing Families also has a video about [Applying for DDA](#).

For formal help, there are county [offices of the DDA around the state](#), and you can call the DDA directly at one of three phone numbers. The eastern part of the state can call (800) 462-0624, the northwestern part of the state (King and beyond) can call (800) 788-2053, and the southwest and Olympic Peninsula can call (800) 248-0949.

### [July 2022 Calendar](#)

*All events are free and, unless noted, on-line*

[How to Share the Load](#) – July 5<sup>th</sup>

[Sharing Down Syndrome in Pierce County](#) – July 8<sup>th</sup>

[Calling Autistic Parents](#) – July 10<sup>th</sup>

[Early Interventions for Psychosis](#) – July 11<sup>th</sup>

[Policy Summer School](#) – July 14<sup>th</sup>

[Dads Helping Dads](#) – July 14<sup>th</sup>

[Legal Transitions to Adulthood Class](#) – July 18<sup>th</sup>

[Cerebral Palsy Caregiver Support Group](#) – July 18<sup>th</sup>

[WA State Sibling Connection](#) – July 21<sup>st</sup>

[Thriving on Two Spectrums](#) – July 24<sup>th</sup>

[Relatives as Parents Program at Shoreline Center for Human Services](#) – July 26<sup>th</sup>

[Familias Resilientes](#) – July 26<sup>th</sup>

[Hands & Voices Family Picnic in Spokane](#) – July 27<sup>th</sup>