

Breakout Room 3

What do you think is one of the main reason people with DD don't have access to HCBS services in our communities?

It is all about transportation and availability.

If you are 45-50 miles away from respite services, you do not have waiver services. For instance, in SE. Washington employment providers are not willing to go outside of the Tri-City area citing the cost of mileage and the amount of time to travel.

Home and Community based services are supposed to happen in your community but that is not a reality for rural communities (which are the largest geographic region in the state).

People are being forced to move out of their chosen rural community in order to be able to access services. The struggles rural communities are facing trying to find providers are a harbinger of what the rest of the state could soon be facing.

People are not using services because they do not match the needs of people.

Services need to be created based on the actual needs of people. Many services feel like they are only geared for individuals with milder disabilities and are not accessible for individuals with higher support needs.

One size does not fit all.

There are unrealistic expectations of the community so even if there are providers for things like community connections the community is not welcoming to the idea.

The requirements like prior approvals, the contracting process and Provider One add far too many barriers and dis-incentivize providers from wanting to provide services. It is all too confusing, too hard to navigate and slows down the ability to be responsive.

Parents are not trusted. The fact that parents are not able to self-direct funds to ensure they are best meeting the needs of their child and family has a negative impact.

There needs to be a recognition that disability impacts the entire family.

We need to be able to take different approaches to serving children and adults.

What ideas do you have for increasing access to HCBS services?

We need to continue to look to increase rates for providers and provide incentives for people want to become providers.

Families need to be able to self-direct their funding.

Parents needs to be able to be paid as providers.