

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION



Enhanced Respite

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0
GF-State	\$270,000	\$269,000	\$539,000
Total	\$439,000	\$438,000	\$877,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) requests funding to expand Enhanced Respite Services (ERS). This service provides DDA children in crisis with access to short-term respite in a structured setting so they can remain with their families. Service delivery occurs in a licensed and contracted structured setting in lieu of the more intensive Community Crisis Stabilization program.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Passed in the 2011 Legislature, 2SSB 5459 redirected service delivery for certain youth to community-based settings rather than RHCs. People under the age of 16 may not be admitted to a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC), and those between ages 16 and 21 may not be admitted for a long-term stay. ERS is a safety valve for those families not yet in a state of crisis to warrant the much more intensive services of the Community Crisis Stabilization Services program, which is limited to only three beds at any given time. ERS provides a short-term stay in a community-based setting so individuals can ultimately remain living with their families.

Likelihood of the following risks increases without Enhanced Respite Services:

- Children lingering in hospitals after medical stability is met;
- Placement outside of the child’s family home and/or community;
- For those under the age of 16, placement in an out of state institution.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Enhanced Respite Services serves as a bridge to allow access to DDA’s Home and Community Based Waiver program, which provides an array of community based services aimed at preventing placement in an RHC. Currently, ERS are being provided in King and Pierce counties. Each site is individually contracted with private community residential providers, with one bed at each site. The contractors assess and balance meeting the needs of the individual requesting ERS compared with those currently residing in the home and have the ability to deny referrals. The contractor is paid regardless of occupancy, which allows for immediate support during a crisis when the bed is unoccupied. The daily rate payable to the contractor for satisfactory performance of work is \$300/day, including all expenses. A reduced rate during periods of vacancy would greatly diminish the contractors’ ability to employ highly trained staff.



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People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

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To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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In FY 2014, an initial trial of two enhanced respite slots have been occupied 77% of the time. The requested funding will allow DDA to continue those two slots and provide two more locations in other parts of the state. The maximum length of stay is 30 days total in a calendar year, which means ERS is not appropriate as a waiver service, but rather serves as a conduit for long-term services upon discharge back into the family home.

The following services are provided:

- Developmentally appropriate services to families with children between ages 8 to 18;
- Identification of challenging behaviors
 - Data can be used by others to develop a functional assessment and a positive behavior support plan when the child returns to the family home;
- Parents can participate in the observation and development of therapeutic teaching and training techniques employed by staff;
- Physical assistance, support, and protective supervision in daily routine activities.

The ability to successfully provide Enhanced Respite Services in a licensed community setting hinges on the contractors' ability to have highly skilled and trained staff, available space, and flexibility to support a child in crisis with sometimes limited planning due to imminent need.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports the *DSHS Goal 4: Each individual in need will be supported to attain the highest possible quality of life* by developing services to help sustain families in their caregiving role and help avoid or delay out of home placements resulting from increased caregiver stress and/or family crisis. The budget request also supports the *DSHS Goal 5: Strong management practices will be used to ensure quality and efficiency* by creating a high quality, lower cost alternative to using RHCs to provide scheduled and emergent respite for individuals with challenging behaviors.

The decision package is essential to implementing the DDA Strategic Objective 4.1: Increase access to home and community-based services.

This request supports the Results Washington goal 3.2b: Increase percentage of clients with developmental disabilities served in home and community based settings.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Families of individuals with developmental disabilities, the ARC of Washington, Developmental Disabilities Council and Parent-to-Parent stakeholders will be in support of having community based respite services available as a service option when a crisis occurs.



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