

Community First Choice

Overview

Community First Choice is a state plan that supports individuals to remain living in the community. Services are provided to children or adults in their own home, an adult family home, or an assisted living facility:

- Establishing a residence.
- Home living.
- Community living.
- Health and safety.
- Social activities.
- Protection and advocacy.
- Other topics based on assessed need. Each ICF is federally certified providing 24/7 support.

Alternative Living providers are contracted statewide with DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration.



Eligibility Requirements

Individuals who:

- Are enrolled and eligible clients of DDA (children under 18 do not have to be DDA eligible).
- Are financially eligible for 'categorically needy' or an alternate benefit plan.
- Have functional limitations due to a disability and unmet needs for personal care.
- Meet institutional level of care.
- Agree to accept home and community based services rather than institutional services.
- Live in their own home, an assisted living facility or an adult family home.

Budget

A total of 80 DDA clients receive up to 40 hours a month of Alternative Living, as of Oct. 1, 2022.

Rates

CFC services are delivered by many different contracted service providers whose rates are dependent upon the service offered. Service rates can be found at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/management-services-division/office-rates-management>.

Partners

- Individuals receiving services
- Families of program participants
- Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
- Department of Children, Youth and Families
- The Arc of Washington
- DD Ombuds
- Disability Rights Washington
- Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
- Health Care Authority
- Informing Families

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Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

Oversight

External

- AL TSA Residential Care Services Division
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- State Auditor's Office
- Washington State Department of Health

Internal

- DDA Office of Quality Programs and Services
- DDA Office of Compliance, Monitoring and Training
- DDA Statewide Investigation Unit



Authority

Title XIX federal funding through a 1915(k)
Medicaid State Plan amendment and state
funding

RCW 74.39.400, personal care services –
Community first choice option

Chapter 388-106 WAC, long-term care services

Contact: **Pon Manivanh**, *Community First Choice Manager* • manipon.manivanh@dshs.wa.gov • 360-407-1572
Melissa Randles, *State Plan Services Unit Manager* • melissa.randles@dshs.wa.gov • 360-764-0405

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services