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LIFELINE

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No Paid Services Caseload

A Troubling Tale: It's Not Too Late to Change the Ending

There are over 15,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Washington State who have been determined eligible for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). However they are not receiving DDD services because of lack of funding. These people look the very same in terms of needs as the people who do receive services. They just applied at the wrong time - and were not lucky because there was no money to help them.

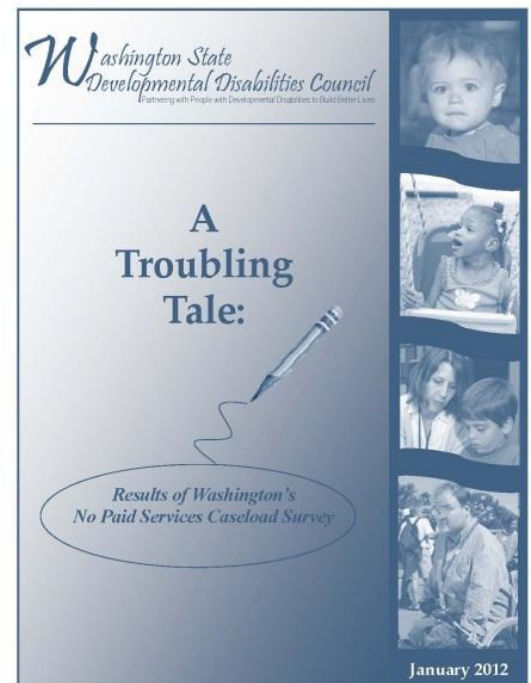
In 2011, the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council conducted a survey to discover what their precise needs are and how they are doing. The results are detailed in the report "A Troubling Tale: Results of Washington's No Paid Services Caseload Survey". These people are a major part of what DD advocates call "the Unserved" or "Waiting Lists".

Topping families' most urgent needs are Respite and Therapies/Medical Costs. Overlaying all is the need for Information - about anything and everything that might help avert further stress and help them plan for the future.

With the need to create fair and equitable public policy, DD community advocates are proposing legislation and additional funding to address this need by:

- Put those on the NPS onto the Caseload Forecast.
- Fund increased information to support families through the Informing Families Building Trust project.
- Hire DDD case resource managers to conduct assessments of the unserved and determine eligibility for Medicaid Personal Care.
- Provide badly needed respite care funding for an additional 4,000 individuals on the NPS caseload per year.

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The Council's Report, "A Troubling Tale: Results of Washington's No Paid Services Survey" is available on the Council's website at: www.ddc.wa.gov