

Word Template for ACHS DD Legislative Committee – 3/29/24

Legislative Steering Committee

WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda Proposal Submission

Developing, proposing, and passing legislation is difficult, time-consuming, and often requires extensive preparation and research. WSAC legislative advocacy efforts are largely directed by the priorities defined in WSAC’s Legislative Agenda (LA). The Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) is responsible for developing a recommendation for WSAC’s LA before each new biennial legislative session begins. Proposing legislative priority ideas to be considered by the LSC is the first step in WSAC’s LA development process. The instructions in this form will assist you in submitting your proposals for the WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda.

Proposal submission due date:

April 19, 2024

Who is eligible to submit proposals:

LSC members, WSAC Affiliates, and WSAC Policy Staff

Section 2: Proposal Information:

1. Proposal Name (100 character limit)

Insert a phrase or sentence that briefly and accurately describes your proposal. Your proposal name should be specific and include the action and the outcome. For instance, say you wanted to propose a priority to improve broadband access. Rather than just naming your proposal “broadband” or even “enhancing broadband,” a name like “enhancing broadband access, affordability, and reliability in unserved and underserved areas in counties” would be more appropriate.

[Increase access to Employment and Community Inclusion services for people with I/DD.](#)

Character limit – 87/100

2. Need Statement (500 character limit)

Insert a concise statement of the existing problem, why the proposal is needed, why change is essential, how the proposal will solve the problem, and who will benefit.

Statewide, employment and community inclusion providers cannot fully serve people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) due to inadequate reimbursement rates. People with (I/DD) are being impacted and they are losing opportunities for jobs and community connections. County entities managing DDA contract budgets need the latitude to increase provider reimbursement up to the maximum rate identified in the legislatively mandated [2022 DSHS/DDA Employment and Day Program Rate Study](#).

Character limit – 490/500

3. Proposal Description (1500 character limit)

Insert a broader description of what your proposal seeks to accomplish and how. While you should strive to be concise, you can include several paragraphs in this field. Your description should include specific strategy recommendations and pertinent information important to an accurate analysis of the proposal, such as how counties and/or residents will benefit, why the change being requested is important, what will happen if the proposal is accomplished, and what will happen if it is not. Other pertinent information in your description may include why you believe WSAC is the right organization to lead the proposal, what needs to be done to prepare for the proposal, what it will take to accomplish it, whether there is a compelling and relatable story or reason for the proposal, and how would it best be accomplished (policy or fiscal). Finally, whether your proposal is likely a single-year issue or a multiple-session effort.

A robust system of Supported Employment & Community Inclusion services is critical to increase financial & social stability for adults with I/DD. Without these services, people with I/DD will continue to struggle against unemployment, under employment, lack of retention supports, and social isolation.

The 2024 legislative budget included a \$35M underspend reduction for supported employment & day programs. The DSHS authorized rate lids have not allowed the allocated program budget to be fully utilized. Counties continue to significantly underpay providers due to rate lids that strictly limit funding usage.

The 2022 legislative session passed two key bills requiring increased provider capacity: HB 1980 allows individuals to access supported employment & community inclusion services concurrently; SB 5790 expands School-to-Work services statewide. However, provider rates were not increased to the degree necessary for full implementation.

Given the intent of the legislation and the devastating consequences to people with I/DD when they cannot access services, we ask that rate lids be adjusted to the maximum level allowed in the 2022 DSHS/DDA Employment and Day Program Rate Study. There will be no underspend when providers are funded to recruit and retain qualified staff, deliver quality services to reduce social isolation & increase the number of people with I/DD working in paid jobs earning minimum wage or better.

This proposal is likely to be a multi-session effort.

Character limit – 1498/1500

4. Is this proposal an urban, rural, or all-county priority?

Insert your opinion as to whether this issue is most likely to be a priority for larger, more populous counties (urban); smaller, less populous counties (rural); or all counties (all-county).

Supported Employment and Community Inclusion services are administered by all counties. These are major county programs and this proposal is a priority for all counties.

5. Insert your explanation for how the proposal meets the following submission criteria adopted by the LSC: a. Must be limited to county government operations, services, costs, revenues, or legislative or executive authority; b. Must benefit multiple counties; and c. Must not directly harm any counties.

The proposal covers services administered by all counties and will increase access to services. It will not directly harm any counties.

6. WSAC Policy Statements and Core Principles supporting this proposal

WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles

Insert the core principles or policy statements from WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles that support this proposal. WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles is a living document adopted by the members that outlines the core principles that form the foundation for WSAC policy positions and specific policy positions within several subject areas important to county government responsibilities, operations, and services.

Counties support state funding for the continuation and expansion of community programs for persons with developmental disabilities, including special services and employment programs, in a continued effort to reduce institutionalization and segregation.

7. Likely supporters

Include a list of who will likely support this proposal and why. This may include legislators, other government organizations (cities, special purpose districts, state agencies, tribes, etc.), citizen groups, non-profit associations, unions, other stakeholder groups, etc.

Who? [Community Employment Alliance](#)

Why? [CEA has been advocating for funding levels to match the Employment Rate Study.](#)

8. Likely opposers

Include a list of who will likely oppose this support and why (if any). This may include legislators, other government organizations (cities, special purpose districts, state agencies, tribes, etc.), citizen groups, non-profit associations, unions, other stakeholder groups, etc.

Who? [Some family advocates and day habilitation centers.](#)

Why? [There are currently advocacy efforts to develop day program services and, with limited funding, they may advocate to move dollars from employment/CI to fund day programs.](#)

9. Other

Include any additional information you believe is relevant to the proposal and deserves consideration that you did not already include. Please be as concise as possible.

• **What to expect next:**

Staff will review all proposals submitted and combine the same or similar proposals into one submission. Combined proposals will include the names of all submitters.

Staff will also further analyze each proposal and provide a recommendation to the LSC for whether the proposal should receive further consideration by the committee as a legislative priority during the 2025-26 legislative session. LSC members will make the final decision.

LSC members will receive a final report of all proposals received before the LSC retreat.