FOSTER YOUTH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES ELIGIBILITY REPORT 2024

![Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES]

CONTENTS

Original Date: November 15, 2024 | Revised Date: December 12, 2024

Partnership, Prevention, and Services | Approved for dist. by Vickie Ybarra, Asst. Secretary

Executive Summary

This report is prepared in compliance with HB 1061, enacted in 2021, which requires the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to submit an annual report to the Legislature that provides the number of children and youth who:

- Are enrolled clients of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) ages 16 through 20[1].
- Are functionally eligible for Medicaid waiver services.
- Are also defined as dependent children under chapter 13.34 RCW.
- May exit dependency proceedings under chapter 13.34 RCW after reaching the maximum age for dependent children.

The stated intent of HB 1061 is to (1) help reduce the number of former foster youth with developmental disabilities discharged into homelessness or inappropriately placed in hospitals and (2) maximize the use of the most cost-effective and appropriate services for former foster youth with developmental disabilities. This is the fourth such report. Previous reports can be found on the DCYF Reports page.

Data Summary of the Identified Population

As of July 1, 2024, there were 1,130 youth in DCYF's child welfare system with an open removal who were ages 16 to 20. Of those, 86 youth were dependent and identified as being eligible for DDA services. An additional 67 youth were dependent and identified as having a health/mental health condition or education plan, indicating the youth could be functionally eligible for Medicaid waiver services.

Of the 153 youth in the identified population, their race demographics are:

American Indian/Alaska Native, Multiracial	15
Asian/Pacific Islander, Multiracial	*
Black/African American, Multiracial	30
Hispanic/Latino	25
White	79

* DCYF has a standard to mask numbers from 1-9 in public reports to prevent any possibility of identifying individuals to protect confidentiality.

Source: OIAA Child Welfare Reporting Portal, Relative Versus Non-Relative Placements Report

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[1] Statute requires the Department to report on dependent youth, eligible for Medicaid services, who are ages 16 through 21 years old. This report provides counts through age 20 because dependencies do not occur after an individual's 21st birthday.

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Implementation

DCYF's Developmental Disabilities Program Manager and six full-time Mental Health (MH)/ Developmental Disabilities (DD) Program Consultants (one for each DCYF Region) continue to implement the work of 1061, using pertinent data to identify the targeted population. DCYF MH/DD Program Consultants and child welfare caseworkers have identified that more robust discussions about what protective arrangements a youth might want or need in adulthood, was an additional area of need for the Developmental Disability Services Planning Meetings. The topic of protective arrangements was added to the meeting agenda outline to ensure adequate planning can occur.

Conclusion

DCYF intends that dependent children and youth in out-of-home placement will be able to access all available supports to be successful and thrive in their homes and communities. Dependent youth with disabilities are likely to require additional support as they transition to adulthood.

Implementing the Developmental Disabilities Services Planning Meetings, as per Second Substitute House Bill 1061, is ensuring that all possible options for services are explored and builds multi-system supports around these youth as they move into adulthood giving them the best chance for success as young adults.

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