

Background

Community Inclusion is an individualized service that provides individuals with opportunities to engage in community based activities that support socialization, education, recreation and personal development for the purpose of:

- Building and strengthening relationships with others in the local community who are not paid to be with the person
- Learning, practicing and applying skills that promote greater independence and inclusion in their community.

Requirements

Applicants seeking qualification to provide Community Inclusion services must:

- Provide evidence that they can meet requirements detailed in [DSHS/DDA policy 6.13](#)
- Demonstrate the capacity to provide services in line with the [DSHS/DDA Criteria for Evaluation](#) and the [County Guide to Achieving DDA Guiding Values](#)
- Meet the requirements in the County Program Agreement for the current biennium.

Other administrative references, model forms and guidelines for Community Inclusion may be found at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/county-best-practices>.

Funding

[DSHS/DDA](#) contracts with counties to qualify providers and manage these services. Clients served must have a valid County Service Authorization (CSA) approved by their DSHS/DDA case resource manager and the County. Services are paid on an hourly fee for service basis.

Qualification Process

Whatcom County has an open and continuous qualified provider process for Community Inclusion services.

Applicants must provide evidence of qualification in a format provided by the County, which is subject to review by an evaluation committee. Applicants may be asked to submit to an interview and further on-site monitoring if requested to verify qualifications. All new providers will receive a one year provisional contract. Renewal of the provisional contract is dependent on the outcome of monitoring.

Interested parties may request a meeting with **Jessica Lee, Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist** to discuss qualifications, review documentation required and present their service delivery structure.

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