

October 2023 

Klickitat Skamania Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Resource Round-Up



HOUSING PROGRAMS

[WAGAP](#) Housing Coordinators provide needs assessment, voucher and housing assistance info@wagap.org or call WAGAP at 509-493-2662

Goldendale: Supportive Housing - 2 yrs of residential stability, individualized plans and case management (509) 773-6834

Guided Path: Supportive Housing and case management Klickitat County residents. Short term shelter. info@wagap.org (509) 493-4234

Skamania County: Supportive Housing - 2 yrs of residential stability, individualized plans and case management. Short term shelter. (509) 427-8229

Housing programs change as funding is awarded. Meet with a Housing Coordinator for a personalized plan for assistance.

[Mid Columbia Housing Authority](#) manages Federal Housing Choice Vouchers for Klickitat & Skamania Counties. You can apply for a Housing Choice Voucher with the assistance of a WAGAP Housing Coordinator or contact MCHA directly for more information. 541-296-5462

Know that the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative is a committed group of agencies from both sides of the river looking for creative and tangible solutions for housing. Learn more at <https://www.mccac.com/houseless-collaborative>



TRANSPORTATION

[Clark County C-Van](#) For riders whose disability prevents them from riding C-TRAN's "fixed-route" (regular) bus system.

<https://mail.c-tran.com/c-tran-services/paratransit-service>

- Origin to destination within Clark County
- Reservation-based
- Shared ride service
- C-VAN is for those who, due to the applicant's disability, experiences difficulties:
 - getting to or from a fixed route bus stop,
 - getting on or off a fixed-route bus, or
 - riding or navigating the fixed-route bus system.
- Eligibility is **NOT** based on symptoms, type of disability, use of a mobility aid, age, income, ability to drive, or access to a private automobile.
- Disabled children age six and under are required to be accompanied by a fare paying adult on paratransit service.
- Paratransit trips may be for any purpose (shopping, work, visiting friends, appointments, etc.) except a medical emergency.

[Columbia Area Transit \(CAT\)](#) information coming in the next newsletter!

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Difference Between “DDA” and “DVR” and Why It Is Important to Apply for These Programs

This is a very brief overview of two government programs and how they have the potential to benefit you, or your loved one. The Federal Government funds services for eligible* individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (**I/DD**) to ensure they have the resources they need to live safe and meaningful lives. **It is your right, as a person with I/DD, to access these resources.**

DDA = Developmental Disabilities Administration is part of the DSHS (Washington State Department of Social and Health Services). The DDA funds services for those with I/DD throughout their lives (birth to 99) through one of five different Waivers OR Community First Choice. What does this mean? You apply for eligibility, a case manager is assigned to you if you qualify for the program, an assessment of your needs is done with your input, and you and your case manager choose the best Waiver that meets your needs. If no Waivers are available, you can receive Community First Choice Services until one becomes available. It is important to apply even if you think you are not eligible or you believe that no services are available—the more the Developmental Disabilities Administration hears there are needs in our Counties, the better they can plan.

Examples of DDA services: Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), Personal Care, Respite Care including Overnight, Community Engagement, Supported Employment, etc.

[Applying for DDA Services](#)

[DDA Eligibility-look for flowchart at bottom](#) (also in Spanish)

[Community First Choice](#)

[Waiver Services](#)

[*Eligible Conditions with Age and Evidence Needed-various language options](#)

DVR = Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is also a part of DSHS, but it deals with employment activities. In addition to applying for DDA services (early and throughout life), individuals with I/DD should ALSO apply for this program as soon as they turn 16. It should be part of any IEP discussion at school. In Skamania and Klickitat Counties, a Youth Employment Specialist (YES) works with students to learn about careers and develop work skills. Stevenson High School is developing a Transition program to help students receive employment at graduation. This program will eventually be integrated into high schools in our two counties. If you have left high school, apply for DVR services to gain the skills and contacts to become employed. If you are concerned about losing Social Security Benefits, DVR has a benefits counselor who can help you determine how much you can work so that you do not lose your health care. Again, it is important to apply so that services can be developed where needed.

Examples of DVR services: Pre-transition services in High Schools, Transition program support in schools, preparing, obtaining, or maintaining employment at all ages, benefits analysis, etc.

[Transition Planning Video](#)

[Age 21-40 Supports](#)

For both programs: Residents of Klickitat County are served through the Toppenish offices and residents of Skamania County are served through the Vancouver offices.

How do these programs work in tandem? If you are an individual who may need long-term employment support, DVR will help you gain employment and your DDA funding (through a waiver) will enable you to have long-term support at your work.

[DDA-DVR comparison](#)

Your go-to source for all things I/DD in Washington State is www.informingfamilies.org



Klickitat-Skamania DD Advisory Board Mission: To support Skamania County Community Health in providing high quality, comprehensive and effective developmental disability services to Klickitat and Skamania County residents in an efficient and respectful manner.

With the support from both the Klickitat and Skamania Board of Commissioners, the Developmental Disabilities services for both counties were joined to form one department in 2021. The Klickitat-Skamania DD Advisory Board was formed soon thereafter.

Visitors are always welcome to join Board meetings! Meetings are held every other month on the first Wednesday, from 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm, on Zoom. Contact Heather Trollier for an agenda and the link.

We are currently seeking new Board members. Ask for a Board Application today!

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