



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

**Developmental Disabilities and
Early Childhood Supports Division**



NEWS & UPDATES

BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DECEMBER 2025



No December

Board Meeting or Event

Spread the Word!

2026 Board Meetings

Tuesday, February 3

Wednesday, May 6

Wednesday, August 5

Wednesday, November 4

We want to hear from as many voices in our community as possible! Board members and community members are encouraged to invite anyone interested in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Your perspective helps to shape services and supports that truly meet the needs of our community. Participating in Board meetings ensures everyone has a chance to be heard. **Let's build a community where every voice counts!**

Reasonable Accommodations

American Sign Language (ASL) and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services are provided at every Board meeting. If you need other reasonable accommodations to meaningfully participate in Board meetings, please contact Michaelle Monday at Michaelle.Monday@kingcounty.gov. We are committed to

providing the supports and accommodations necessary to ensure that our meetings are accessible for all.

Board Chair Remarks

As we reflect on the past year, I am deeply moved by the dedication, compassion, and collaboration that define our community. Each of us plays a vital role in advancing our mission to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays to live full, inclusive, and self-directed lives.

The strength of our Board lies in our shared commitment and collective action. To my fellow board members — thank you for the leadership, insight, and heart you bring to this work. Your engagement helps guide our vision and ensures that our decisions reflect the voices and needs of those we serve. I encourage you to remain active, ask questions, share ideas, and continue bringing your unique perspectives forward. Your participation truly makes a difference.

To our community members, we invite you to join us in spreading awareness and deepening inclusion and belonging. Your involvement strengthens the Board we are building. Together, we will continue to improve supports and services, remove challenges, and celebrate the abilities and contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As we look ahead to the coming year, let us move forward with gratitude, purpose, and hope — united in our belief that every person deserves the opportunity to belong, contribute, and thrive.

Appreciation for Community Members Who Participated in the Legislative Forum

Thank you to all who attended this year's Legislative Forum. We were honored to host nearly 380 community members, including self-advocates, families, and 17 Legislators. With interpretation available in 9 languages and the support of volunteers from across our division and partner agencies, we were able to create a welcoming and accessible event for all. Your engagement and partnership are vital to our shared mission of preserving, protecting, and expanding services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays in King County.

2026 Legislative Priorities Now Available!

Great news! King County's 2026 legislative priorities and the full forum recording are now available on our website. Check out the priorities and catch up on the personal stories shared at the forum [here](#).

Board Recruitment: Self-Advocates

Be a Voice for Change — Join the Board for Developmental Disabilities!

Do you have an intellectual and developmental disability and want to make a real difference in your community? We are looking for self-advocates to join the Board for Developmental Disabilities — because your voice matters!

As a board member, your perspective will help shape programs, influence decisions, and speak up for people with disabilities across our community. No experience is needed — just bring your ideas, your perspective, and your passion. We provide training, support, and accommodations to help you succeed.

Meetings are quarterly, usually on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., with both in-person and online options. We'll make sure you're fully supported in the way that works best for you.

Ready to make a difference?

Contact James Ott at James.Ott@kingcounty.gov or visit <https://Kingcounty.gov/DDBoard>.

Your voice can change lives — let's do it together!

International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on **December 3**. First celebrated in 1992, this day has marked over three decades of progress and advocacy for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The day seeks to raise awareness of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also highlights the benefits and contributions of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life, promoting a truly inclusive and sustainable society.

Universal Developmental Screening and Promotion



Universal Developmental Screening and Promotion (UDSP) provides information, training, tools, and connections with other providers to ensure that all children in King County receive culturally responsive, high-quality developmental screening throughout early childhood.

Developmental screening helps early childhood practitioners celebrate milestones, promote early

learning, and identify young children who may benefit from extra support in one or more areas of development. Families are supported in understanding their child's development and connecting with resources that nurture their child's growth and wellbeing. **Identifying developmental delays early is key to linking children to Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) services**, which can have a big impact on a young child's success in school and life.

Screenings are offered in any context where a family and child interact with an early childhood practitioner, including healthcare, early learning, and community settings. Community-based partners implement the core components of this work, and customize education on early childhood milestones, developmental screening tools, and delivery of UDSP for Black/African American, Chinese, Pacific Islander, Somali, and Latinx communities.

UDSP Vision

All King County children and families receive high-quality developmental screening throughout early childhood that centers each child's and family's **strengths** and seamlessly connects them to appropriate, accessible, and timely developmental support.

Current Funding Partners

- Afghan Health Initiative
- Amara
- Akin
- Children's Therapy Center
- Chinese Information and Services Center
- Communities of Rooted Brilliance
- East African Community Services
- Encompass Northwest
- RVC First Five Years & Beyond
- Indian American Community Services
- Iraqi Community Center of Washington
- Korean Community Services Center
- Mary's Place
- Hummingbird Indigenous Family Service
- No Limits Therapeutic Services

- Open Doors for Multicultural Families
- Perinatal Supports Washington
- HopeCentral
- Villa Comunitaria

Interested in Learning More?

We'd love to connect with you! If you'd like to learn more about UDSP or access developmental screening materials, please reach out:

Miguel Rodriguez-Torres

UDSP Program Manager, King County

Email: mirodrig@kingcounty.gov

Phone: 206-477-5009

December Updates

[November Board Minutes](#)

[November Board Presentation](#)

[December DDECSD Updates](#) (Services for Children/Youth/Adults, and their families)

Next Board Meeting

The next quarterly hybrid Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3, 2026**, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at our King County Tukwila office, located at 625 Andover Park W., Suite 200, Hallway Meeting Room 2, Tukwila.



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