



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

**Developmental Disabilities and
Early Childhood Supports Division**



NEWS & UPDATES

BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



NO MARCH MEETING OR EVENT

Upcoming Meetings¶

- → May-6¶
- → August-5¶
- → November-4α

Stay Connected!

Board meetings are a time to come together, share updates, and make important decisions. They give people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families the opportunity to learn what's happening, ask questions, and speak up about the supports and services they need.

When our community is informed, we are stronger and more empowered. We encourage you to attend, stay engaged, and be part of the conversations.

Get involved. Make your voice heard.

Next Board Meeting

The next quarterly hybrid Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

You can attend in-person or online.

In-person location:

King County Tukwila Office
625 Andover Park W., Suite 200
Hallway Meeting Room 2, Tukwila

[Join the meeting online:](#)

Meeting ID: 211 284 457 913 0

Passcode: zK33eS6s

We hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

BOARD RECRUITMENT

The King County Board for Developmental Disabilities is currently recruiting self-advocates with I/DD to serve on the Board. If you are a person with I/DD, your leadership and participation on the Board will help us improve services and supports for others with I/DD in King County.

Your experience and your voice matter. As a Board Member you will:

- Share your ideas and experiences
- Help make important decisions
- Speak up for people with disabilities
- Help improve supports and services

Board meetings are open to the public. To ensure meetings are accessible and inclusive, King County provides ASL interpreters and closed captioning. Additional reasonable accommodations and support services are available upon request.

To learn more or apply, visit: <https://Kingcounty.gov/DDBoard> or contact James Ott at: James.Ott@kingcounty.gov.

Community Resources

Do you know someone who could benefit from being connected to King County's service providers? They understand and work closely with individuals and families to help improve their well-being by connecting them to essential services and resources.

Want to learn more about the Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division's (DDECSD) services? Visit our website at <https://Kingcounty.gov/DDBoard>.

To explore programs and services offered by the Department of Community and Human Services, visit: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs>.

Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers

The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program serves children 0-3 who need extra support with development. With early and inclusive services, all children and families can thrive!

- ESIT providers help children meet milestones such as walking, talking, eating, playing, and learning; families gain skills and knowledge to support their child's needs.
- Providers meet children and families where they are — at home, in childcare, and at other early learning and community settings. Families may also choose virtual services.
- Early access to services strengthens children's long-term brain development and family relationships.
- Providers offer services in the family's home language, recognizing that families are the child's first teachers and know their child best. Families are actively involved as essential members of the ESIT team.

- ESIT is an entitlement program, meaning federal and state laws require that all eligible children receive timely evaluations and services. Waitlists are not permitted.
- Some children benefit from continued developmental supports beyond age three. The ESIT team connects families with additional resources, celebrating each child's unique journey and strengths and supporting their future transition into the public education system.

ESIT Services Include:

- Family Resource Coordination
- Early Education
- Speech Therapy
- Motor Therapy
- Infant Mental Health Supports
- Feeding and Nutrition Supports
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Vision Supports

ESIT Growth and Opportunities

King County's ESIT program has grown steadily and significantly! Since 2015, ESIT has increased the number of children served by 87 percent. During 2025, 7,318 King County children 0-3 and their families received ESIT services. Services were provided in over 50 languages.

To support the continued growth of ESIT services, King County established the Career Pathways Scholarship. The intent of the scholarship is to increase higher education opportunities for staff; improve retention and strengthen the ability of providers to work with diverse families. The next application period opens this spring!

Make a Referral to ESIT!

Anyone, including parents and caregivers, who have a concern about a child's development can make a referral to King County ESIT services by phone, email, or fax. Referrals may also be made using the ESIT Provider Map Tool to locate services in your area and contacting the provider directly.

You can submit a referral in any of the following ways:

- Call 206-204-3536 or email ESIT@kingcounty.gov

- Fax a [King County ESIT referral form](#) to 206-299-9146
- Online use the [ESIT Provider Map Tool](#)

For more information about ESIT in King County, contact ESITLeads@kingcounty.gov.

ESIT Outreach Flyers:

[English](#)

[Amharic/ አማርኛ](#)

[Chinese Simplified / 中文](#)

[Dari / دری](#)

[French / Français](#)

[Korean/ 한국어](#)

[Russian / Русский](#)

[Somali / Soomaaliya](#)

[Spanish / Español](#)

[Tigrinya / ትግርኛ](#)

[Vietnamese / Tiếng V](#)

DDECSD Resource Fair - Save The Date!

Get ready! Registration for the May 28, 2026, DDECSD Resource Fair opens in March 2026.

Join us for this free, all-ages event connecting individuals, families, and community members to a wide range of disability-focused resources and services across King County. Whether you're looking for information, support, or new connections, this is a great place to start.

When registration goes live, you'll also find:

- Multilingual Resource Fair flyers
- A ready-to-use social media toolkit to help spread the word

Stay tuned and visit: www.kingcounty.gov/disabilities-fair.

We can't wait to see you there!

Honoring National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is [National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)! This month is dedicated to celebrating the contributions of people with developmental disabilities, raising awareness, and promoting inclusive communities where everyone can thrive. It's a time to learn, share stories, challenge misconceptions, and advocate for equal opportunities in education, work, and community life. Join us in recognizing the talents, achievements, and voices of individuals with developmental disabilities and in fostering a culture of understanding, acceptance, and inclusion.

Purple Day For Epilepsy Awareness Month

[Purple Day](#), observed each year on March 26, is a global grassroots initiative dedicated to raising awareness about epilepsy, reducing stigma, and supporting individuals and families affected by this neurological disorder. People around the world are encouraged to wear purple and host events to show their support and spark conversations about epilepsy.



March Updates

[February Minutes](#)

[February Presentation](#)

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



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