



Thurston/Mason County Developmental Disabilities **DDA Application Night Q & A**



Q What is the purpose of DDA Application Night?

A It generally takes up to 3 months to get an answer to DDA eligibility determination once you have applied. By participating in DDA Application Night, if DDA receives all required documentation, **you may receive an answer the night of the event.** It is also an opportunity to get answers to questions you may have regarding the DDA application process and services they offer.

Q What is considered a developmental disability?

A RCW 71A.10.020(5) defines a developmental disability as an intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another neurological or other condition similar to intellectual disability.

The disability must:

- Have originated before the individual turned eighteen,
- Continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and
- Results in substantial limitations

If you are unsure if someone will be eligible, it's best to apply and work with DDA to determine eligibility.

Q What are the steps to the DDA application process?

A There are three main steps to eligibility.

- *Determination.* This step determines if an individual is eligible for services.
- *Assessment.* This step establishes the types and level of services needed. Appointments are currently scheduled 3-4 months after being determined eligible for services.
- *Financial.* This final step determines financial eligibility for waiver services (possible services include employment support, respite care, assistive technology, housing assistance, community inclusion and much more, depending on assessed need).

Q Who should attend DDA Application Night?

A The following people should attend:

- Any student who wants to participate in Job Foundations and/or School to Work when eligible
- Anyone who has a goal to work and needs long-term supported employment
- Anyone who wants/needs other services (i.e., community inclusion, respite, etc.)