



Winning

The WAITING GAME

Life Long Learning Act- Pathway to Independence

RCW 71A.10.015 declares that "the legislature recognizes the capacity of all persons, including those with developmental disabilities, to be personally and socially productive. The legislature further recognizes the state's obligation to provide aid to persons with developmental disabilities through a uniform, coordinated system of services to enable them to achieve a greater measure of independence and fulfillment." Adults with significant, multiple developmental disabilities and their families desire a balanced array of social and supportive services that promote individual choice, dignity, and the highest practical level of independence. Many of these adults are now living longer and investing in them helps maintain their skills and abilities.

Providing these services needs to be done inclusively in the community. Authorized services in the Life Long Learning Act can be provided as a stand alone program or used in conjunction with employment and other day services. It would not be a duplication of services. The program would offer the following:

- ★ Independent living skills training
- ★ Community participation
- ★ Social skills training
- ★ Self advocacy training
- ★ Recreation
- ★ Continuing education classes
- ★ Personal assistance
- ★ Transportation

The Life Long Learning Act will provide continued learning opportunities for adults 21 years or older with severe and profound intellectual disabilities based on their assessed needs. Individuals would continue to live in their homes or other community residential support programs. This program would ensure that adults with significant disabilities have the opportunity to have a meaningful life and help maintain the well being of the individual and the families that care for them.

\$3 m (State)
(Federal match available for waiver clients)