



**Report to the Legislature**

**INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SERVICES  
PROGRAM**

Chapter 522, Laws of 2007 Section 205 (1) (e)

January 1, 2008

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 522, Laws of 2007 Section 205 (1) (e) requires the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to submit a status report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on the individual and family services program for people with developmental disabilities which shall include the following information: The number of applicants for funding; the total number of awards; the number and amount of both annual and one-time awards, broken down by household income levels; and the purpose of the awards. The reports are due by January 1, 2008 and November 1, 2008.

## BACKGROUND

The overall intent of the Family Services (FS) Program is to keep families intact by providing them with assistance in caring for their family member with developmental disabilities. Historically, the services provided by family support included respite care, therapies, adaptive equipment and related costs, training, supports and counseling, medical, dental, and nursing services, which are not covered by Medicaid or private insurance.

DDD had been operating multiple family support programs (Traditional, Opportunities and the Pilot) and in November 2006, DDD and stakeholder representatives submitted a report to the Legislature requesting a new, combined family support program. In April 2007, the Washington State Legislature passed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5467 which instructed DDD to create the new Individual and Family Services (IFS) Program.

The IFS Program supports the mission of the Division of Developmental Disabilities:

*The mission of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is to endeavor to make a positive difference in the lives of people eligible for services, through offering quality supports and services that are:*

*Individual/family driven; stable and flexible; satisfying to the person and their family; and able to meet individual needs. Supports and services shall be offered in ways that ensure people have the necessary information to make decisions about their options and provide optimum opportunities for success.*

Given this mission, the purpose of the IFS Program is to provide a low-cost, high-impact way for the state to partner with and invest in the well-being of families. This program allows families to have an intermittent

break from their caregiving duties and helps defray some of the costs associated with supporting a family member with a developmental disability living in the home.

The intent of the new IFS Program is to provide families with a more flexible menu of the supports necessary to keep eligible individuals with a developmental disability at home with parents or relatives.

The IFS Program allows participants to use their allocation to pay for any of the following services related to, and resulting from, their disability and identified and agreed to in the DDD Assessment Individual Support Plan (ISP):

- Respite Care,
- Therapies,
- Architectural and vehicular modifications,
- Equipment and supplies,
- Specialized nutrition and clothing,
- Excess medical costs not covered by another source,
- Co-pays for medical and therapeutic services,
- Transportation,
- Training,
- Counseling,
- Behavior management,
- Parent/Sibling education, and
- Recreational opportunities.

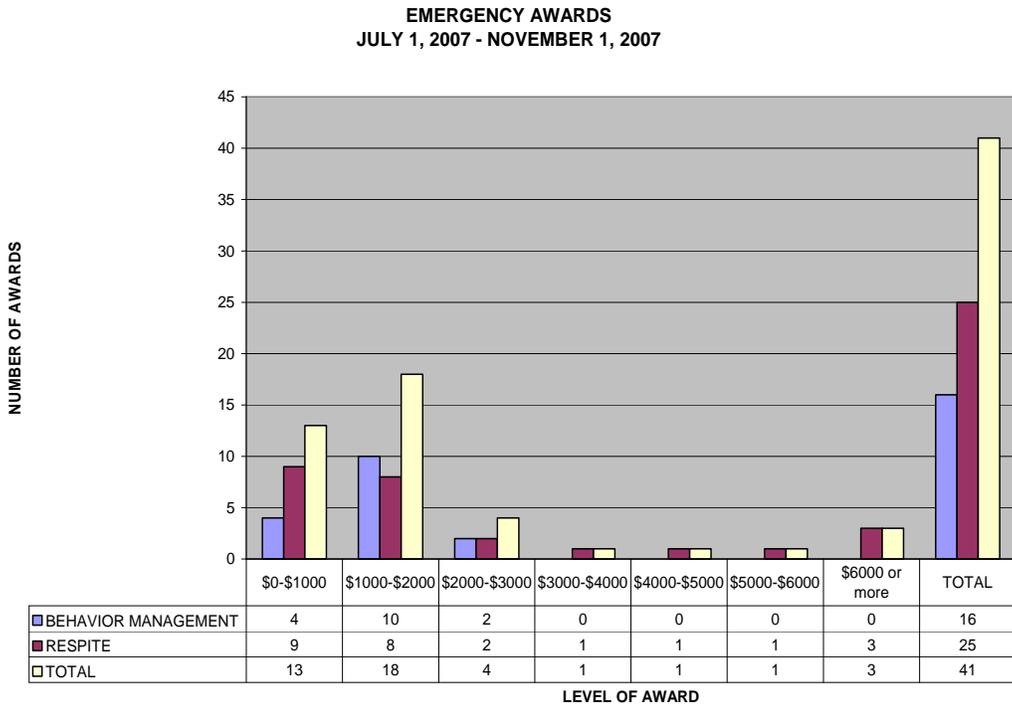
### **NEED-BASED ALLOCATIONS**

To receive funding in the new IFS program a DDD assessment must be administered to determine the person's need. Once the need has been established the funding amount will be based on the person's level of need. There are four allocation levels:

- Level 1 = \$2000
- Level 2 = \$3000
- Level 3 = \$4000
- Level 4 = \$6000

In addition, the IFS program allows families who are on the Family Support Wait List (FSWL) to receive one-time and emergency awards if they experience a short-term crisis. Between July 1, 2007 and November 1, 2007, the Department has issued 41 emergency awards; 16 allocations were used toward behavior management and 25 allocations

were used to access respite. A single one-time award has been given and that allocation was used toward architectural adaptations.



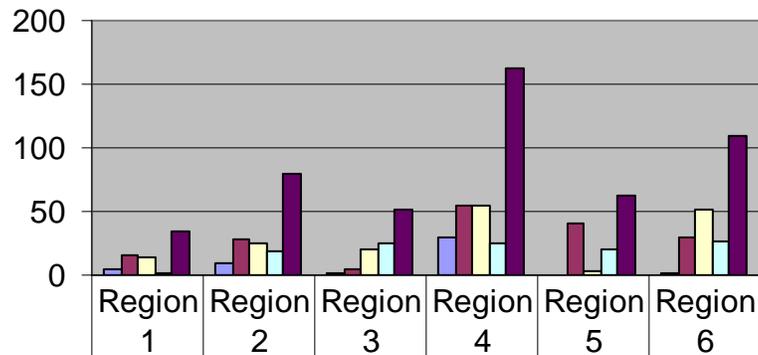
## STATUS

### **Transition Timeline for Traditional Family Support, Family Support Opportunity and the Family Support Pilot**

The transition period for the IFS program started on June 1, 2007 and will continue until June 30, 2008. During this time, Traditional Family Support (TFS), Family Support Opportunity (FSO) and Family Support Pilot (FSP) participants will be contacted by their case manager to complete a DDD Assessment to determine the level of need. Participants will then be transitioned to the IFS program.

## IFS Program Transition Status

July 1, 2007 - November 1, 2007



	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
FS Wait List	4	9	2	29	0	2
Traditional FS	15	28	5	54	40	29
FS Opportunities	14	25	20	54	3	51
FS Pilot	1	18	25	25	20	27
Total to Date	34	80	52	162	63	109

- As of July 1, 2007 there were 1,904 clients receiving FSO, 671 clients receiving TFS, and 343 clients from FSP that are being transitioned to the IFS Program.
- As of November 1, 2007 DDD has transitioned 454 clients from TFS, FSO, and the Pilot to the IFS program.
- As of November 1, 2007 DDD has taken 46 clients from the wait list and offered them the IFS program based on eligibility and assessed level of need.

### UNSERVED POPULATION (Wait List)

The Legislature has provided funding to offer 1,300 new clients the opportunity to participate in the IFS program during this biennium (July 2007-June 2009) at an average amount of \$3,000 per individual.

In the state of Washington, there are approximately 9,960 clients who could be considered to receive assistance from the IFS program. The names of these potential clients reside on a list maintained by DDD. Once they are determined to be eligible for DDD services, the case manager will conduct an assessment of the client's needs. Depending upon the level of need, the client may qualify for one of the four levels of IFS funding, from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per year.

## **PURPOSE OF SCREENING**

DDD does not have the resources to administer assessments to all potential clients immediately. The Division, therefore, established a process to prioritize the eligible clients.

On October 1, 2007, each Region was provided a list of the three priority groups from the wait list. These clients are currently being offered the IFS program services.

Statewide, Regions were given 4.0 FTE. (.66 FTEs per region) to offer 450 clients the IFS program from October 2007-June 2008. This includes administering the DDD Assessment in the client home and discussing and arranging the IFS program services for these families.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. In order to receive individual and family services, an individual must:
  - a. Live with a relative, and
  - b. Not receive services under DDD waivers.
  
2. Individuals from the wait list will receive screening in the following order:
  - a. Individuals on the FSWL and have demonstrated a need by requesting the services listed below during the 2005-07 Biennium, i.e., between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2007:
    - i. RHC Respite
    - ii. Emergency Services
    - iii. Residential Placement
  - b. Individuals who are on the FSWL and within either of the two following groups:
    - i. Those who have a documented level of need based on the mini-assessments given, and
    - ii. Those who have been waiting the longest.

In selecting individuals from these groups (2.b.i. and 2.b.ii.), 50 percent will be drawn from one group, and 50 percent from the other.

## INCOME

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is required to request family income for families of children who are seventeen years of age or younger and are receiving state-only funded services. The amount of services a client receives is solely based on the individuals assessed need. Income will not affect a person level of service.

An individual's access to DDD paid services is not affected when families decline to provide DDD with family income information. As of November 1, 2007, 237 participants have declined to report their income.

