

Developmental Disabilities Administration Eligibility Overview

What is a Developmental Disability?

Per [RCW 71A.10.020\(5\)](#) The disability must:

- Originate before the individual turns eighteen,
- Continue or be expected to continue indefinitely, and
- Constitute a substantial limitation to the individual.



An applicant becomes enrolled with the DDA by meeting criteria used to determine if they have a developmental disability and substantial limitations. This criteria is in WAC.

Once enrolled with the DDA, a person can request services, though they do not have to.



Basic Determination Process

1. Applicant or representative submits application forms and required evidence

- [Request for DDA Eligibility Determination \(14-151\)](#)
- [Consent \(14-012\)](#)
- [Notice of Privacy Practices for Client Confidential Information \(03-387\)](#)
- [Eligible Conditions Specific to Age and Type of Evidence \(14-459\)](#)

A person can go to dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request to have an application mailed to them.



388-823-0020	How do I become a client of the developmental disabilities administration?
388-823-0025	Who can apply for DDA eligibility determination?
388-823-0055	Who is responsible for obtaining the documentation needed to make my eligibility determination?
Policy 11.01	Intake and Eligibility Determination

2. A DDA eligibility case worker assists in gathering evidence if needed
3. A DDA case worker evaluates evidence
 - Attestation of Washington State residency
 - Evidence of disability onset before age 18
 - Evidence of a qualifying condition
 - Evidence of substantial limitation (substantial limitation requirements vary by qualifying condition)



[388-823-0050](tel:388-823-0050)

For DDA eligibility, who is considered to be a resident of the state of Washington?

[388-823-0075](tel:388-823-0075)

What if I do not have written evidence that my disability began before my eighteenth birthday?

[388-823-0080](tel:388-823-0080)

How does DDA determine whether I meet eligibility criteria?

How Long Does a Determination Take?

- The DDA has **30 days** from receiving the last piece of requested documentation before making a determination
- If the DDA has insufficient information to make a determination and has not received all of the requested documentation, eligibility may be denied after **90 days** from the date of application



[388-823-0090](tel:388-823-0090)

How long will it take to complete a determination of my eligibility?

[388-823-0100](tel:388-823-0100)

What is the effective date of my eligibility determination?

Required Documentation

1. Diagnosis of an eligible condition that is not expected to improve or go away
2. Evidence that the condition was present prior to age 18
3. Evidence of substantial limitations varies by condition
 - IQ scores
 - Physical assistance needs
 - Adaptive functioning test scores



Age and Eligibility



Eligible Conditions by Age	0 - 3	4 - 9	10 - 17	18 and over
One Developmental Delay	X			
Three or more Developmental Delays	X	X		
Intellectual Disability (ID)		X	X	X
Cerebral Palsy		X	X	X
Epilepsy		X	X	X
Autism		X	X	X
Another neurological, or other condition similar to ID		X	X	X

Intellectual Disability

- Diagnosis of Intellectual Disability (ID) by a licensed or certified school psychologist
- Full Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) of 69 or below (depending on the test used)
- Adaptive functioning tested at more than two standard deviations below the mean



[388-823-0200](tel:388-823-0200)

How do I show that I have intellectual disability as an eligible condition?

[388-823-0210](tel:388-823-0210)

If I have intellectual disability, how do I meet the definition of substantial limitations?

Cerebral Palsy

- Diagnosis by a licensed physician of
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Quadriplegia
 - Hemiplegia
 - Diplegia
- Symptoms that existed prior to age three and impair control of movement
- Need for direct physical assistance in 2 or more:
 - Toileting
 - Bathing
 - Eating
 - Dressing
 - Mobility
 - Communication



[388-823-0300](tel:388-823-0300)

How do I show that I have cerebral palsy as an eligible condition?

[388-823-0310](tel:388-823-0310)

If I have cerebral palsy, how do I meet the definition of substantial limitations?

[388-823-0760](tel:388-823-0760)

What evidence do I need to show my need for direct physical assistance?

Epilepsy

- Diagnosis of epilepsy or seizure disorder by a qualified professional
- Seizures are not controlled
- Adaptive functioning tested at more than two standard deviations below the mean



388-823-0400	How do I show that I have epilepsy as an eligible condition?
388-823-0410	If I have epilepsy, how do I meet the definition of substantial limitations?

Autism

- Evidence of onset prior to age 5
- Adaptive functioning tested at more than two standard deviations below the mean, AND
- Diagnosis of Autistic Disorder (DSM.IV.TR 299.00) prior to Feb. 1st, 2022, OR
- Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM.5), and
 - FSIQ below 85, or a
 - Written statement confirming your autism prevents you from IQ testing



[388-823-0500](tel:388-823-0500)

How do I show that I have autism as an eligible condition?

[388-823-0510](tel:388-823-0510)

If I have autism, how do I meet the definition of substantial limitations?

Another Neurological or Other Condition Similar to ID

- Diagnosis of a neurological or chromosomal disorder made by a licensed physician
- Disorder results in intellectual and adaptive skills deficits
 - FSIQ of 77 or below (depending on the test used), or
 - Academic delays for children under 20, and
 - Adaptive functioning tested at more than two standard deviations below the mean



[388-823-0600](tel:388-823-0600)

How do I show that I have another neurological or other condition similar to intellectual disability?

[388-823-0610](tel:388-823-0610)

If I have another neurological or other condition similar to intellectual disability, how do I meet the definition of substantial limitations?

[Policy 11.04](#)

Determining Other Condition

Another Neurological or Other Condition Similar to ID

- What is Another Neurological or Other Condition?
 - It must be neurological or chromosomal in nature,
 - Have originated before age eighteen,
 - Be expected to continue indefinitely without improvement,
 - Is not attributable to or is itself a mental illness or emotional, social or behavioral disorder, and
 - Must be known by reputable authorities to cause intellectual impairment and adaptive skills deficits.



Impact of Unrelated Injury or Illness on Evidence of Adaptive Functioning

DDA must be able to determine that the functional limitations are not a result of:

- Mental illness
- Behavior problems
- Injuries or illness not related to the qualifying diagnosed condition
- Injuries or illness occurring after age 18



Expiration and Reviews

Eligibility expires

- On the 4th birthday
- On the 10th birthday if eligible under developmental delays



[388-823-1000](tel:388-823-1000)

Once I become an eligible DDA client, is there a time limit to my eligibility?

[388-823-1005](tel:388-823-1005)

When does my eligibility as a DDA client expire?

[388-823-1010](tel:388-823-1010)

When will DDA review my eligibility to determine if I continue to meet the eligibility requirements for DDA?

[388-823-1030](tel:388-823-1030)

How will I know that my eligibility is expiring or is due for review?

Expiration and Reviews

Reviews

- At age 19 if the last determination was before age 16
- When there is evidence of insufficient, mistaken, or fraudulent information
- Before the 18th birthday if eligible under the Medically Intensive Children's Program
- Before the 20th birthday if the current eligibility determination relied on evidence of academic delays in Broad Reading and Broad Mathematics

Eligibility Termination

- If you are no longer a state resident
- If you ask

388-823-1010	When will DDA review my eligibility to determine if I continue to meet the eligibility requirements for DDA?
388-823-1015	What is the definition of "DDA paid services" in WAC 388-823-1010(2)?
388-823-1030	How will I know that my eligibility is expiring or is due for review?
388-823-1020	Can DDA terminate my eligibility if I no longer am a resident of the state of Washington?
388-823-1090	If I am already eligible, how do these new rules affect me?

The Person is Enrolled, Now What?

If the person needs services, they must request them.

They can make a request for services by contacting DDA, or submitting the request here:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request>

Name of the person who will receive requested services

Name of person completing this form

Date of birth of person who will receive requested services

Phone Number

Email Address

County *

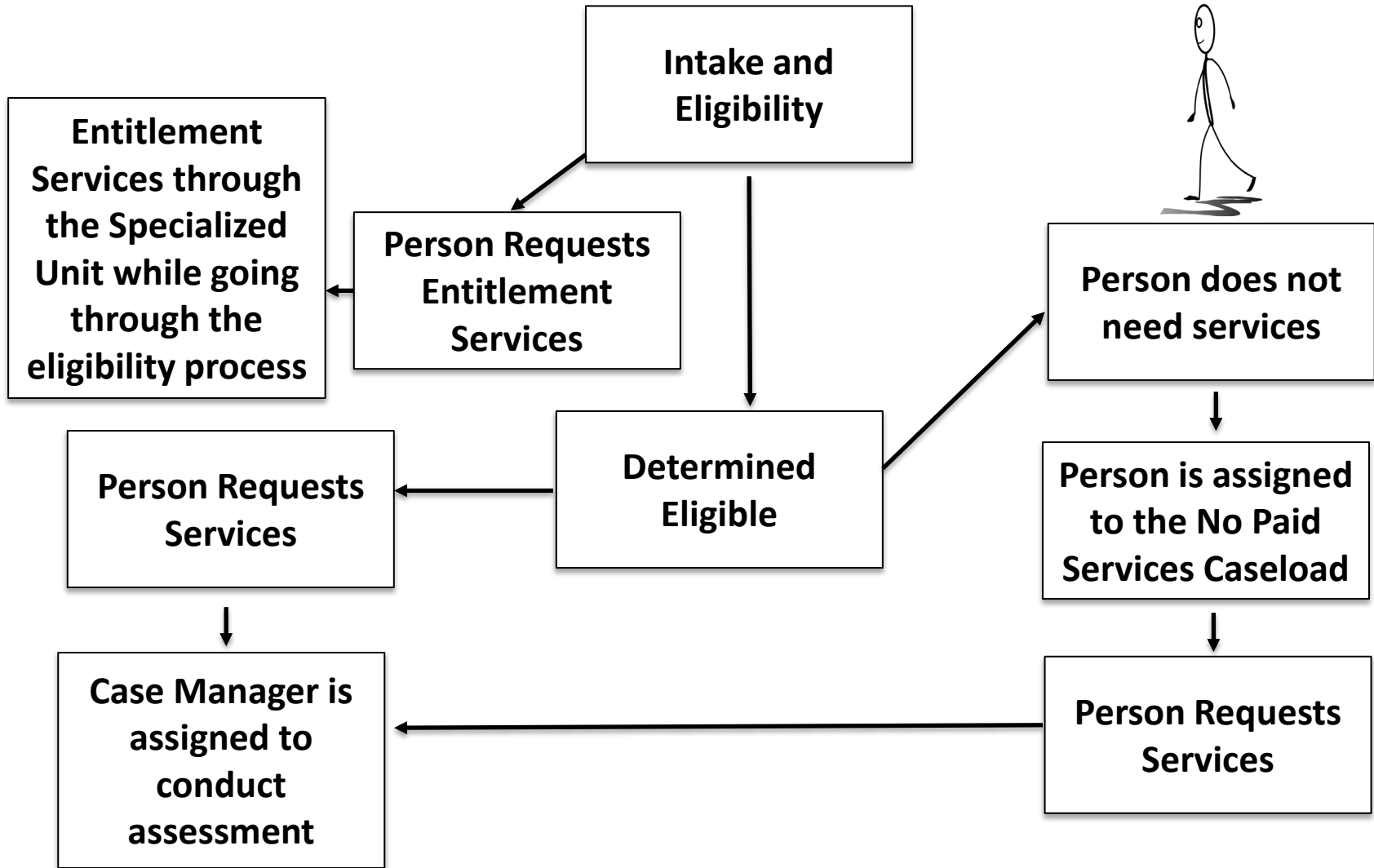
City

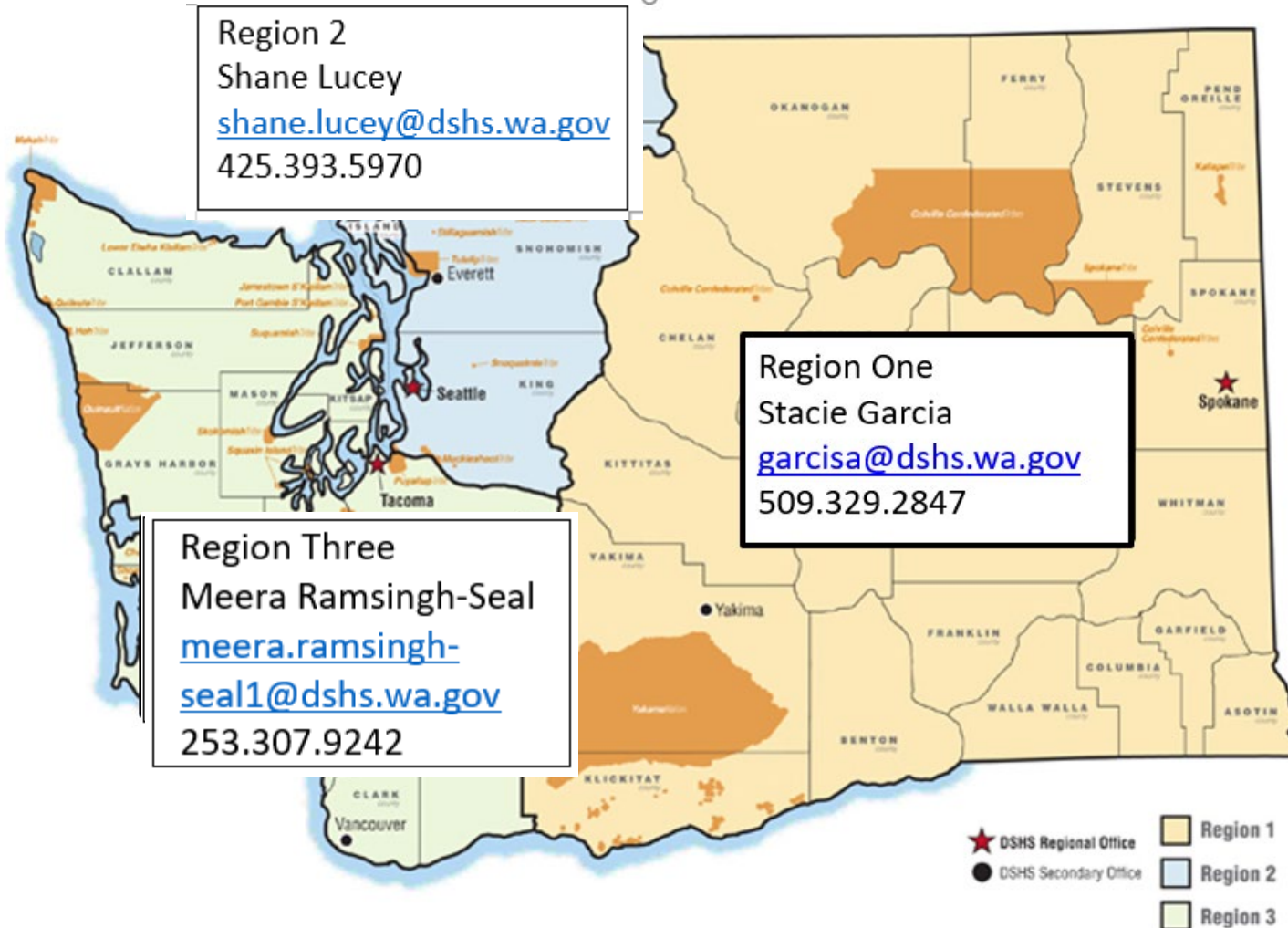
Please check here if you would like a DDA eligibility packet mailed to you.
 Yes
 No

Service or information Requested

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The Person is a Client, Now What?





Resources

Resource page

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/consumers-and-families/eligibility>

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request>

[DDA Policy Ch. 11](#)

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Thank You!



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