



Governor  
Chris Gregoire

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GOVERNMENT WORKING SMARTER

2010 POLICY BRIEF

## REFORMING HOW WE CARE FOR WASHINGTONIANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Governor Gregoire believes many persons with developmental disabilities are best served in integrated community-based settings rather than in the state's large institutions for the disabled, called residential habilitation centers. The Governor believes this is especially true in the case of children, who are better served in small homes near their local schools.

A study ordered by the 2009 Legislature found that Washington serves proportionately more people in institutions than most other states. The Governor finds this proportion unacceptable and agrees with the study's conclusion that reforms are needed to increase the number of clients who receive integrated care in the community.

Not only does the Governor believe many citizens with developmental disabilities would be better served in communities than in habilitation centers, she also recognizes that reforming how we care for these citizens will free up badly needed funds to extend better care for more clients. She supports making long-term investments to gradually build a system of integrated community-based care to deliver better service.



### GOVERNOR GREGOIRE PROPOSES TO:

- » **Close two of the state's five Residential Habilitation Centers.** In the early 1970s, six state centers served more than 4,000 residents. Today, five centers serve 900 long-term residents and contain many underused buildings. Governor Gregoire proposes closing the Frances Haddon Morgan Center in Bremerton and to begin the downsizing of Rainier School in Buckley by June 2011, with a target closure date for Rainier of June 2014. Residents of these facilities would be carefully transitioned to new residential settings in the community or in one of the remaining centers. The Governor proposes to fund 60 new community-based residential slots in Fiscal Year 2011.

» **Retain expansion of the Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support program.** Despite the state's current budget difficulties, Governor Gregoire proposes that this vital program continue to expand behavioral management intervention services to more children and their families, up to the limit of 100 families approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to prevent out-of-home placements.

*Maintains \$3.7 million in state funding and \$4.6 million in federal funding.*

» **Create new programs for children.** Current private providers have limited expertise and capacity for serving children in community-based settings. Governor Gregoire proposes to supplement private provider capacity by creating three new State-Operated Living Alternative facilities specifically for serving children before June 2011.

*Appropriates \$345,000 in state funding and \$407,000 in federal funding.*

» **Create community-based residential respite capacity in each region.** Many families seek respite services from the habilitation centers because limited numbers of providers are able to appropriately deliver respite care in home or community-based settings. Governor Gregoire proposes to create two community-based respite slots for each of the six regions, beginning next year.

*Appropriates \$1.8 million in state funding and \$2.3 million in federal funding.*

» **Expand funding for community-based residential services.** The 2009 Legislature provided funding to grow the Expanded Community Services and the Community Protection Services programs so individuals who need safe homes have community-based residential options. The Governor proposes to expand these services and programs to serve more clients, adding 24 slots for Expanded Community Services and 13 more slots for Community Protection Services.

*Appropriates \$2.0 million in state funding and \$2.6 million in federal funding.*

» **Increase staff temporarily to support institutional clients transitioning to community living.** Governor Gregoire proposes funding eight new positions at the Division of Developmental Disabilities to provide transition planning, resource management, case management and quality assurance services to help institutional residents relocate to community living.

*Appropriates \$580,000 in state funding and \$515,000 in federal funding.*

Governor Gregoire understands the importance of state support to families and clients with developmental disabilities, and of the need for a continuum of services, from in-home care to community settings to remaining in institutions. The Governor is determined to implement smart reforms in how supports are provided in order to benefit clients, offer services to more citizens and reduce costs.