

## Whatcom County Community Access: Provider Qualifications

Whatcom County has an open qualified provider process for Community Access services. Certification as a qualified provider is required to be eligible for public Community Access funds through Whatcom County. Qualified providers must be able to meet the requirements of the Whatcom County Quality Assurance and Evaluation Tool, and submit to an onsite monitoring visit to demonstrate compliance. To maintain qualified status, the provider must successfully complete a monitoring every 2 years. All corrective action on the monitoring report must be completed prior to contracting for another year.

### **Background**

Community Access (CA) services are provided to adults with developmental disabilities 21 and older who are retired or no longer pursuing employment. Services are individualized and designed to provide clients with opportunities to engage in community based activities that support socialization, education, recreation and personal development for the purpose of:

- Building and strengthening relationships with others in the local community who are not paid to be with the person.
- Learning, practicing and applying skills that promote greater independence and inclusion in their community.

### **Funding**

The County contracts with qualified providers for Community Access Services using Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DSHS/DDA) funding.

Services are paid on an hourly fee for service basis. Clients must be authorized for services through their DSHS/DDA case resource manager.

### **Qualification Requirements:**

Qualified providers must be able to meet the requirements of the [DSHS/DDA Policy 6.13](#) "Provider Qualifications for Employment and Day Program Services" including the [County Guidelines](#).

Providers must submit to an initial onsite monitoring to verify qualifications and will receive follow-up monitoring within the first year to ensure compliance with the County Program Agreement for the current biennium and the [DSHS/DDA Criteria for Evaluation](#). All new providers will receive a one year provisional contract, with renewal dependent on the outcome of monitoring.

*Interested parties may request a meeting with Jessica Lee, Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist, to review the Provider Agreement, discuss qualifications and present their service delivery structure.*  
[jlee@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:jlee@whatcomcounty.us) 360-778-6047.

**\* Note:** Existing Whatcom County qualified Pathways to Employment providers with no outstanding corrective action may qualify to provide Community Access services with 30 day notice to the County.