

To: Evergreen Graduate Admissions
From: Cole McNamara
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Subject: Policy Evaluation Argument

The Department of Social & Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides services to tens of thousands of individuals across Washington State and determines eligibility for programs and services based on Chapter 388-823 WAC. Individuals who apply for DDA must meet all existing criteria within Chapter 388-823 WAC to be determined eligible, to include the preliminary requirement of being a Washington State resident located in WAC 388-823-0050. This WAC states that an individual "must be considered a Washington state resident to be eligible for DDA. If DDA does not consider you a Washington state resident, you are not eligible for DDA and DDA will deny or terminate your eligibility." The intention of this law is clear: to prevent non-residents from applying for services and to ensure that tax dollars and federal matched dollars are continuing to fund services for those who reside in Washington. DDA's Intake & Eligibility team will not process an application unless an individual lives within the state which poses an economical, health, and safety impact for families and individuals moving from other states. Potential clients must move to Washington with no paid support for 3-6 months until their eligibility application is processed, then wait another 3-6 months to receive an assigned case manager and initial assessment for services. This could be remedied by allowing families to apply for eligibility when they are planning the move to Washington. Services that DDA offers like Personal Care and Respite Care are crucial to the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that care for them. Due to the current iteration of the 388-823-0500 WAC families may be unsupported for up to a year causing isolation, financial hardship, stress on the household, and abuse/neglect.

Chapter 288-823 WAC <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?dispo=true&cite=388-823>
WAC 388-823-0050 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=388-823-0050>