

Adult Day Health *Myths*

SMART MONEY INVESTED
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LEGISLATIVE ISSUE NO. 6

Myth 1

“The federal government is not going to continue funding adult day health.”

This is incorrect.

Washington has at least three options to continue Medicaid funding of adult day health.

- 1. Put adult day health back on the Medicaid State Plan** (where it had been until recently being moved by Aging and Disability Services Administration).
- 2. Add adult day health under a new Medicaid option.** The federal government just approved a 1915(i) for the state of Nevada (it covers mental health services, developmental disabilities and adult day health) and it has encouraged Washington State to explore this option. DSHS has determined that there are no regulatory barriers to putting adult day health in the 1915(i).
- 3. Put adult day health under the COPES 1915(c) waiver.** This would unfortunately exclude many clients with developmental disabilities who need the service but are not eligible for COPES.

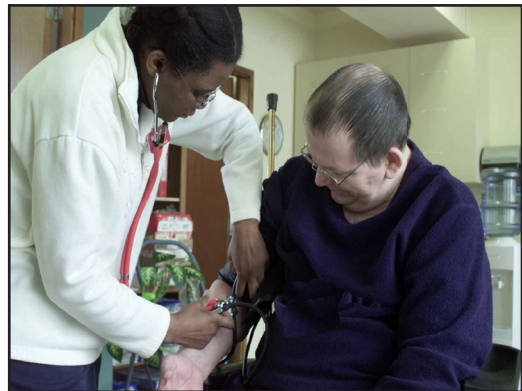
Myth 2

“People receiving adult day health care can be served in other community settings if adult day health goes away.”

This is incorrect.

Adult day health provides skilled care.

Unlike most other community-based long-term care services, **adult day health provides skilled nursing and rehabilitative care.** Only a few residential options do; home care does not. Adult day health can be used together with home care or adult family homes to manage complex, chronic health conditions and keep people out of nursing homes, hospital wards and emergency rooms.



Myth 3

“1,900 individuals will be affected if adult day health is eliminated.”

This is incorrect. 1,900 is a one-month snapshot. **8,000 rely on adult day health every year.**

- 2,700 rely on Medicaid to pay for the adult day health care they need; *plus*
- At least 1,300 pay privately; *plus*
- At least 4,000 caregivers rely on adult day health.

Many – if not most – centers across the state would be forced to close their doors if Medicaid funding is eliminated. Adult day health services would disappear throughout the state, effectively terminating the service for nearly all Washingtonians.