



Grays Harbor County

Developmental Disabilities

PROGRAM SERVICES

Community Information, Education, Referral and Awareness

We help individuals and families navigate services and connect to resources:

- Clear, personalized information and referrals
- Educational tools and materials
- Awareness events and storytelling to:
 - Promote understanding
 - Reduce stigma
 - Celebrate the strengths of people with developmental disabilities
- Think of us as a signpost – we help guide you, no matter where you are on your journey



Community Liaison

Local experts in developmental disabilities who:

- Bridge the gap between families and community resources
- Attend IEP and 504 plan meetings
- Guide students (especially those in transition) through disability systems



Individualized and Community Inclusion Services

Available starting at age 22, these person-centered supports include:

- Employment in integrated settings
- Support for volunteering and social activities
- Activities aligned with individual interests and strengths
- Promotes connection, purpose, and relationship-building



Transition Services Across a Lifespan

Birth to Three – Children's Services

- Emphasize early intervention
- Coordinate shift from in-home support to school-based IEP services

Children's – Teen Services

- Focus on:
 - Social development
 - Building relationships
 - Daily living skills

Teen – Adult Services

- Plan for life after school:
 - Employment, independence, community participation
 - Supported by families, schools, county staff, and partners
 - Includes presentations and annual Transition Fair

Adult – Aging Services

- Support planning for future life stages as needs evolve



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MEET THE TEAM

The Grays Harbor Developmental Disabilities Program supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through every stage of life. Grounded in inclusion and built on strong partnerships, the program works with families, schools, service providers, and the community. Our goal is to ensure that individuals have the information, tools, and support they need to live their best lives.



Dee Dee Garman, Program Coordinator

Dee Dee has led this program since 2011 and brings over 40 years of **lived experience as a parent of a person with a disability**. She is committed to re-establishing the kind of **walk-alongside support** she received as a parent, helping families navigate the complexities of disability services and resources.

Dee Dee is dedicated to making sure programs are **inclusive** and **follow federal, state, and local rules**.



Stefani Joesten, Transition Specialist

Stefani has been working in public health since 2021, supporting families of children with disabilities through the **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** program. She joined the Developmental Disabilities team in 2025.

Stefani is trained as a **special education teacher** and she is especially passionate about helping people **build on their strengths** and finding **creative ways to support growth and independence**.



Hannah Thorp, Program Assistant

Hannah joined the team in 2025 and brings her own **real-life experience** to the work. She has been involved in Girl Scouts, the Miss Grays Harbor Scholarship Organization, and Special Olympics.

Hannah is a **powerful contributor** and helps the team stay focused on what really matters to people with disabilities and their families. She brings **energy, respect, humor**, and a **strong belief in inclusion** to everything she does.

If you have questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help!
DDProgram@graysharbor.us or 360-500-4070