



Neurodevelopmental Centers of Excellence

Reaching More Families In Need

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has worked with Neurodevelopmental Centers of Excellence (NDCs) for over 40 years. These private, non-profit organizations offer specialized therapies for children and youth with special health care needs from birth to age 18. NDCs also support and coach their parents and caregivers.

NDCs provide evidence-based therapies like occupational, physical, and speech therapies. Aquatic therapy, feeding team services, and assistive technology have helped NDCs reach more communities. NDCs continue to raise awareness and outreach within the communities they serve.

Families have reported rapid progress in their children's mental (cognitive), mobility (motor) control, and other developmental advances. These improvements have also led to better educational success. For some families, the progress in mobility, speech, feeding, and classroom success has exceeded the expectations of their child's primary care physician.

JANUARY 2024

By the Numbers

18

There are 18 NDCs in Washington

9,760

Clients served in 2021

66%

Of clients were age 2 or younger, and
18% were between ages 3-5

65%

Of clients were in families living at or
below **210%** of the federal poverty level

Partnerships Add Value

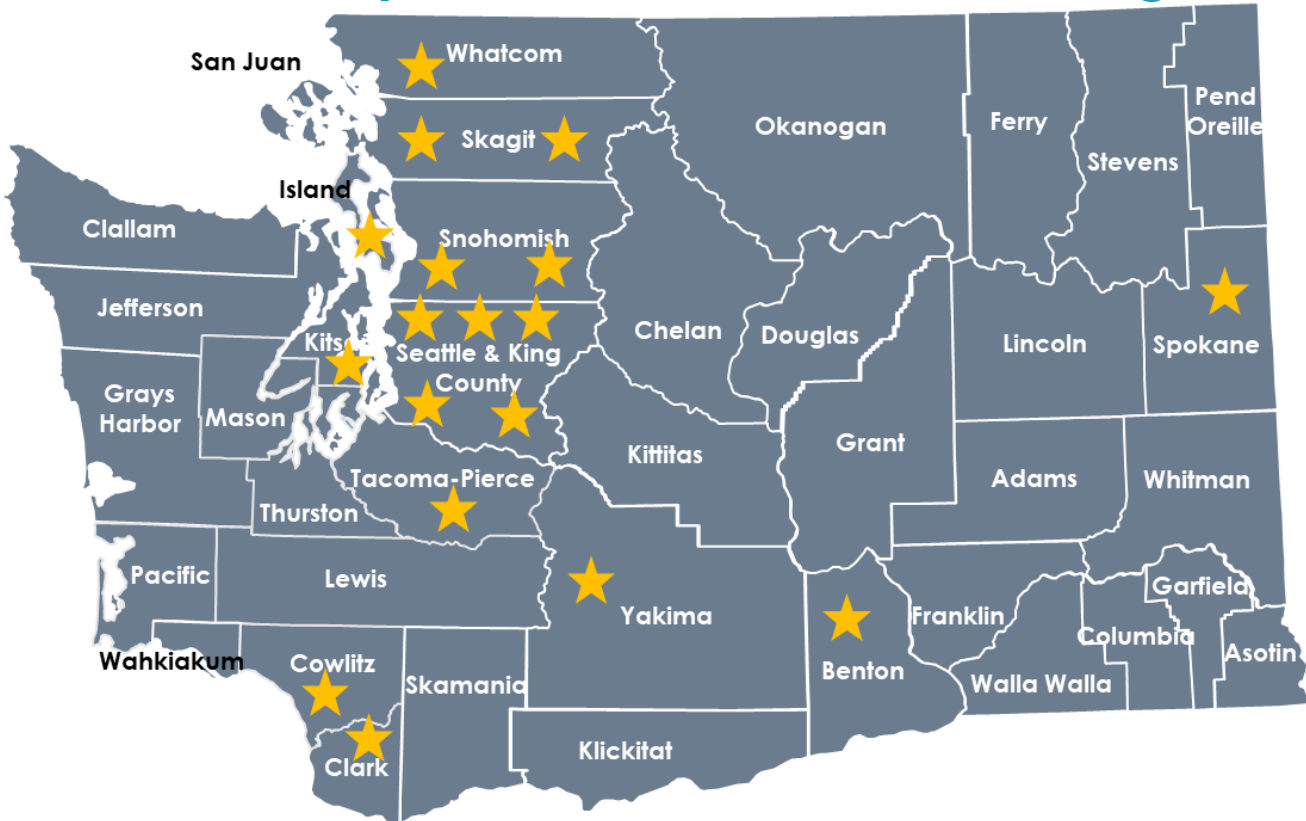
The relationship between NDCs and DOH began in the early 1980s and has invaluable impacted children with special health care needs and their families. NDCs are recognized by the state Medicaid program and can bill Medicaid in a unique provider category. This designation also means NDCs can start services without prior approval, helping ensure timely access to crucial services. **In 2020, NDCs received \$642,799 in support from General State Funds.**

The NDC must meet several criteria to earn designation as a Neurodevelopmental Center of Excellence. Criteria include having a Medical Director who ensures standards of excellence and staff for occupational, physical and speech therapies.

Access to these therapies has significantly lowered the financial burden of medical care for families. It has also improved the statewide healthcare system for children and youth with special health care needs. Early treatment services may also prevent the additional need for special education.

For example, 29% of toddlers completing the early intervention services through NDC programs did not qualify for special education at age 3.

Neurodevelopmental Centers in Washington



 Neurodevelopmental Center Location