

# The Trust Report

Developmental Disabilities Life Opportunities Trust

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund



Winter 2009

## Trusting in the Long-Term: How You Can Help Shape the Trust's Future

As we enter this new year, there is a lot of talk about change in the air. Change for the future, which is generating hope. Change in the current economy that is generating concern.

Like everyone else, I feel a great deal of hope for the future, but am concerned about today as we face very difficult times. If you have been following the national economy, you already know the troubling times our economic and financial institutions are facing. The DD Endowment Trust Fund (commonly called the DD Life Opportunities Trust) is not immune from these trends. Our investment portfolios are well managed by the Washington State Investment Board, but we have experienced losses over the last few months. Collectively our two portfolios have slid from \$18 million at the end of July, 2008 to \$15.8 million as of the end of December, 2008. This represents a loss of a little over \$2 million dollars.



*Ed Holen*  
Trust Administrator

You will notice this in your individual statements enclosed with this newsletter. To be honest, I have no idea when the markets will turn around, but our investment portfolios are assembled for long term investments.

As you will also see in this newsletter, we now have 1,110 trusts. We were able to match 1,000 with funds from the \$5 million the State allocated to the Trust in 1999. We need an additional \$5 million to match to another 1,000 trusts. The 2009 Legislative Session is not really a good time to ask for money. Nonetheless, we have taken up the challenge and are asking the Legislature to fund an additional \$5 million. In addition, we are suggesting the Legislature use part of the revenue generated as a result of the increased federal Medicaid match to DD programs. This creates no ongoing commitment; it is a one time only contribution.

If you would like to help in this regard, please contact your legislators and talk to them about how important the Endowment Trust Fund program has been to you.

Other ways you might stay involved:

- Plan to attend an Advocacy Day, every Wednesday during the session beginning at 10 am (schedule and featured topics at [www.arcwa.org](http://www.arcwa.org) ).
- Keep up to date by watching the Olympia Insider Video Podcasts ([www.olympiainsider.org](http://www.olympiainsider.org)).
- Make an appointment to visit with your legislators, tell them your story and educate them about the importance of the DD Endowment Trust Fund.
- Apply to become a member of the Trust Fund Governing Board. See more detailed information in this Newsletter.

Given the deep budget cuts in the state budget, there are a lot of voices competing over a shrinking pie. I encourage everyone to stay hopeful and get involved like never before.

DDLLOT Trust Administrator

## New Board Member Sought for DDLOT Board

The DDLOT Governing Board provides oversight and active direction for the Life Opportunities Trust. Currently, there is an opening on the board and you might be the perfect person to fill it.

### Who can serve on the board?

By statute, board members need to be individuals who have expertise in one of the following areas:

- Finance
- Actuarial science
- Management
- Business
- Public policy
- Community development
- Fundraising



During this selection process, we will be making extra effort to look at candidates living in eastern Washington. DDLOT Board members serve a three year term.

### Why serve on the Board?

Over the next three years, the Governing Board will be making important policy decisions that will direct efforts to secure additional matching funds to match private contributions and provide ongoing governance of the program.

“These are challenging times for all of us,” Ed Holen, Trust Administrator, says, “Which is why we are hoping to have qualified applicants that understand the importance of the Trust and what it can do to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.”

### How do applicants apply?

If you're interested in applying, application materials are available on DDLOT's website ([www.ddlot.org](http://www.ddlot.org)) on the “What's New” page. Interested individuals need to submit an application and a resume by February 27, 2009.

### What happens after I apply?

Submitted applications are reviewed and then interviews are conducted of selected applicants. Selected position candidates are then forwarded to the Governor, who makes the final recommendation.

### What if I have questions?

More information about the Trust is available at the DDLOT website. ([www.ddlot.org](http://www.ddlot.org)). If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Ed Holen at 800-634-4473.

## By the Numbers

As of December 31, 2008, 1,110 trust accounts have been opened and funded.



Of those, 384 are Trust I accounts, third-party trusts, where families, guardians and others are making contributing to the trust for the benefit of the beneficiary with developmental disabilities.

There are another 726 Trust II accounts, self-settled trusts, where the contributions are funds belonging to the beneficiary with developmental disabilities.

Twenty-one families are participating in the Payment Plan option by making monthly payments towards the enrollment fee.

## Moving Soon?

If you have moved or are planning on moving, please let us know. Call Patti Bell at the Arc of Washington 1.888.754.8798.



## Questions? Feedback

We welcome your comments and feedback. Let us know how we can do better. Call Ed Holen at 1.800.634.4473 or email him at: [edh@cted.wa.gov](mailto:edh@cted.wa.gov).

