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What are Regional Centers?

Regional centers are private, non-profit corporations that contract with the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide services under the Lanterman Act for people with developmental disabilities who are aged 3 and older. People with developmental disabilities who qualify for regional center services under the Lanterman Act are called “consumers.”

Regional centers also provide services under the Early Intervention program to children under three who are developmentally delayed, have an established risk condition, or who are at “high risk.”

WHAT SERVICES DOES THE REGIONAL CENTER OFFER?

Early Intervention Services

Services provided under the **Early Intervention** program (also known as **Early Start**) for children ages 0 to 3 years include the following:

- Assistive Technology (AT)
- Audiology
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- Family Training/Counseling
- Medical Services (diagnostic or evaluation purposes only)
- Nursing Services
- Nutrition Services
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Physical Therapy (PT)
- Psychological Services
- Service Coordination
- Social Work
- Special Instruction (Infant development programs)
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Transportation & Related Costs
- Vision Services
Lanterman Act Services

Services provided under the Lanterman Act for individuals generally age **3 and older** include the following:

- Adaptive Equipment
- Advocacy Assistance
- Behavior Intervention Programs
- Community Integration Services
- Counseling
- Day Programs
- Emergency and Crisis Intervention Services
- Independent Living Skills Services
- Respite (in-home or out-of-home)
- Social Skills Training
- Special Trainings for Parents
- Specialized Medical and Dental Care
- Transportation Services
- Work Services Programs

How Are Some Services Limited?

1. Parent participation is required to receive behavioral intervention services. In some cases, the regional centers may require parents to complete group instruction on the basics of behavior intervention before offering in-home behavioral intervention.
2. Generally, respite services are limited to 90 hours per quarter for in-home respite, and 21 days per year for out-of-home respite.
3. Camp, social recreation services, educational services, and non-medical therapies have been suspended since 2009.
4. Regional centers are generally prohibited from purchasing day programs, vocational education, work services, independent living program services, and mobility training for consumers.

**Note:** As of 2009, respite care under the Early Start program is generally not available. However, respite could be available as a required service if, for example, it is needed to allow a parent to access another required early intervention service, such as attending a parent training session.
between the ages of 18-22 who are eligible for special education and who have not received a diploma or certificate of completion from a high school.

5. For transportation services involving minors, families must provide written information, such as a brief letter, explaining why they need the regional center to pay for transportation services.

6. For health care services, the consumer’s parent, guardian or conservator is required, at specified times, to provide copies of the consumer’s health benefits cards, such as private health insurance or Medi-Cal cards. Families are required to first explore coverage for services through these health benefits but regional centers may pay for medical or dental services while coverage is being pursued or appealed. Regional centers may also pay co-payments, co-insurance, or policy deductibles under certain circumstances.

**Note: Exemptions to some of the above service limitations may apply.** Please contact Public Counsel if you have questions regarding exemptions at the number provided below. Additionally, for easy-to-read fact sheets that include descriptions of these exemptions, you can go to Disability Rights California’s website at: [http://www.disabilityrightsc.ca.org/pubs/PublicationsFactSheets.htm](http://www.disabilityrightsc.ca.org/pubs/PublicationsFactSheets.htm).

**Are there Fees for Regional Center Services?**

Regional center services are free, subject to a few exceptions for certain services, such as respite and day care. In those cases, a copayment for the service may be required for some families with higher incomes, unless the child is eligible for Medi-Cal. Also, for children who are not Medi-Cal eligible, families may be subject to an annual family program fee of either $150 or $200, depending on their household size and adjusted gross income.
Who qualifies?

First, an individual must be a resident of California to qualify for regional center services. The person does not need to be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Confidentiality rules prohibit regional centers from disclosing the immigration status of an individual.

What qualifies a person to be a regional center consumer?

Depending on his or her age, an applicant may qualify as a regional center consumer under either the Lanterman Act or the Early Intervention Services Act.

Lanterman Act Services

Regional center services are available to any person generally age three or older who has a developmental disability as defined by the Lanterman Act. Under the Lanterman Act, a developmental disability means a disability that originates before the age of 18, can be expected to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a “substantial disability” for the individual.

Once a regional center has determined that an individual is eligible for regional center services, he or she can receive services indefinitely. The consumer does not need to re-apply to continue being a regional center consumer. As long as the consumer continues to meet the eligibility criteria, then he or she remains a regional center consumer, unless the regional center can show through a comprehensive evaluation that the original eligibility determination was “clearly erroneous.”

Qualifying developmental disabilities:

1) Intellectual disability;
2) Cerebral palsy;
3) Epilepsy;
4) Autism;
5) A disabling condition similar to intellectual disability or a condition that requires treatment similar to that required for intellectual disability.
“Substantial disability”

A person must have a condition that fits one of the five disabilities listed above, and that condition must constitute a “substantial disability” for that person. Substantial disability is defined as “a major impairment of cognitive and/or social functioning.” A person can demonstrate a substantial disability by showing impairments in at least three of the following areas:

- Self-care;
- Receptive and expressive language;
- Learning;
- Mobility;
- Self-direction;
- Capacity for independent living; and
- Economic self-sufficiency.

Early Intervention Services

A multidisciplinary team, including the parents, determines eligibility for Early Intervention services (also known as Early Start). The regional center has 45 days to complete intake and assessment and hold an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) from the date the child is referred for Early Intervention eligibility.

Infants and toddlers are eligible for Early Intervention services if they have (a) a developmental delay, (b) an established risk condition, or (c) are at “high risk” of having a developmental disability due to their genetic, medical, developmental, or environmental history.

(a) Developmental Delay

Infants and toddler aged 0-36 months are eligible if they have a 33% delay in one or more of the following developmental areas:

- Cognitive development, e.g., limited interest in environment, limited interest in play and learning;
- Physical and motor development, e.g., abnormal muscle tone, asymmetry, and other orthopedic impairments;
• Communication development, e.g., limited sound repertoire, limited responses to communication with others;
• Social or emotional development, e.g., unusual responses to interactions, impaired attachment, self-injurious behavior;
• Adaptive development, e.g., feeding difficulties.

(b) Established Risk Condition

An established risk condition exists when an infant or toddler has:
• A condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, such as Down syndrome, epilepsy, or cerebral palsy; or
• A severe disabling condition that is relatively rare, such as blindness, deafness or a serious physical impairment.

(c) “High Risk”

Children are also eligible for Early Intervention services if they are at “high risk” of having a substantial developmental disability. This may include children born premature, exposed to drugs or alcohol prenatally, or who have a parent with a developmental disability.

Children who are eligible for Early Intervention services are re-assessed by the regional center before they turn 3 years old to determine if they meet the definition of developmental disability under the Lanterman Act to continue receiving regional center services after age 3.

Note: The Prevention Resource and Referral Services (PRRS) Program in place from 2009-2014 for “high risk” children is no longer in effect. These children can once again receive Early Start services from regional centers.
Applying for Regional Center eligibility

Step #1: Contact the Regional Center

If the child or youth is living in the community, then the parent, guardian, or caregiver should call the nearest regional center and ask to speak with an intake coordinator. If you don’t know which regional center to contact, call any regional center and let them tell you which regional center is closest to your home or placement.

If the child or youth is in foster care, then the social worker should request a regional center eligibility evaluation. If the youth is under the jurisdiction of Probation and currently in juvenile hall, camp, home on probation, or in a suitable placement, then the probation officer should help establish eligibility. The parent, guardian, or caregiver can always contact regional centers directly to apply for services, but social workers, probation officers, and attorneys can be helpful in establishing eligibility.

Children whose parents have had their parental rights limited or terminated by the dependency court or delinquency court may have a developmental services decision-maker or education rights holder appointed to represent them by the court. These court-appointed representatives may also contact the regional center directly and ask to speak with an intake coordinator if they believe that the child may qualify for regional center services. The developmental services decision-maker also has the right to access the minor’s information, participate in the Individual Program Plan (IPP), and participate in the fair hearing process. Caregivers of children in planned permanent living arrangements, such as prospective adoptive placements automatically hold developmental services decision-making and educational rights for the child, unless the court orders otherwise.

Step #2: Intake

After the parent guardian developmental services decision-maker, or advocate contacts the regional center to request an evaluation, the regional center has 15 working days under the Lanterman Act to conduct the initial intake process. The intake coordinator, who may conduct the intake by phone, will provide information and advice about the nature and availability of services that the regional center provides. After speaking with the parent, guardian, developmental services decision-maker, or advocate, the intake coordinator will decide whether or not to move forward with an eligibility assessment.
Step #3: Assessment

To determine whether a child or youth is eligible for services, the regional center may conduct a formal assessment. There is no charge for an assessment and diagnosis to determine eligibility. A psychologist or other professional may do the assessment and write a report. Regional centers may also review existing documentation about the condition of the child or youth to decide whether he or she is eligible for services.

Under the Lanterman Act, the assessment process must occur within 120 days following initial intake. However, the assessment must be done within 60 days if a delay would pose unnecessary risk to the health and safety of the child or youth, result in significant further delay in the child or youth’s mental or physical development, or place the child or youth at imminent risk of a more restrictive environment. Furthermore, in Los Angeles County, regional centers must complete the eligibility assessment within 60 days of referral for any youth under the jurisdiction of Probation, according to an agreement under the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between these agencies.

Under the Early Intervention Services Act, the assessment process must be completed, and the first IFSP must be held, within 45 days of the initial referral.

Step #4: Eligibility Determination

The regional center must determine whether or not the child or youth qualifies for services. In making its decision, the regional center will take into account its assessment, as well as any other medical, educational, or historical information that the family or advocate provided. The regional center may also conduct additional tests. If the child or youth is not eligible, then the regional center must send written notice by certified mail no more than 5 days after it makes its decision.

Step #5: After Eligibility is established

Under the Lanterman Act, the regional center has 60 days to develop the initial Individual Program Plan (IPP) after the assessment has been completed and it is established that the child or youth is eligible for regional center services. The IPP process is discussed below.

Under the Early Services Intervention Act, the regional center must conduct the assessment and hold the initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of the referral date. The IFSP process is discussed below.
What if the child or youth is not found eligible?

The regional center is not always right. If the parent, guardian, developmental services decision-maker, or education rights holder disagrees with the regional center’s decision that the child or youth is ineligible for regional center services, then he or she can appeal. Please see Appealing a Regional Center Decision section below.

What is an Individual Program Plan (IPP)?

The IPP is a contract under the Lanterman Act between the regional center and a consumer, generally aged 3 or older. The IPP is developed by the planning team, which must include the person with the developmental disability as well as the person with legal custody of the minor, or a person appointed by the court, known as the developmental services decision-maker.

The IPP identifies all of the services and supports that the consumer needs, as well as how they will be purchased or secured. The IPP is also the process the regional center uses to provide the consumer with an appropriate placement.

The IPP should focus on the needs, goals, and preferences of the child and his or her family. It should promote community integration and independent, productive, and normal living. All parties, including representatives for the consumer, should sign the IPP only after there is a consensus on the services to be contained in the IPP. Once the consumer and the regional center agree on what IPP contains and the IPP is signed, then the regional center must do what the IPP says.

The IPP must be held once every three years under the Lanterman Act, but regional centers typically conduct annual reviews. However, a consumer, parent, guardian or developmental services decision-maker may request an IPP at any time, and one must be held within 30 days of the request.
What is an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)?

An IFSP is a contract for children ages 0-3 and the regional center under the Early Intervention program (also known as Early Start). A planning team develops the IFSP, and the team must include the person who has legal custody of the child, or the education rights holder appointed by the court.

Children eligible for Early Intervention services whose parents have had their parental rights limited or terminated by the dependency court or delinquency court may have an education rights holder appointed to represent them by the court. The education rights holder can contact the regional center directly and ask to speak with an intake coordinator if he or she believes that the child may qualify for the regional center’s Early Intervention services program. The education rights holder also has the right to access the child’s information, participate in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and participate in the fair hearing process. Caregivers of children in planned permanent living arrangements, such as adoptive placement, hold education rights for the child, unless the court orders otherwise.

The IFSP includes a family statement, present levels of functioning, expected developmental outcomes, a list of services (including duration, frequency, location, funding source and projected initiation date), and transition information. It must also list all of the services and supports for the child. An IFSP must be held every six months. However, a parent, guardian, or education rights holder may request an IFSP at any time, and one must be held within 30 days of the request.
What if I am having trouble getting a service that I need?

Disability Rights California (DRC) has a contract with DDS to provide advocacy services to regional center consumers. Under this contract, DRC has established the Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy (OCRA) to assist all regional center consumers, free of charge. Clients’ Rights Advocates from OCRA can speak to case managers or help consumers file for a fair hearing (see below for more details on fair hearing). For more information about OCRA, please visit: http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/about/OCRA.htm or call DRC directly at (213) 213-8000.

For issues related to regional center services, Public Counsel provides advocacy assistance to children who: (1) are under dependency or delinquency court jurisdiction, (2) have been or are being adopted from the dependency system, or (3) live with a non-parent caregiver under a guardianship.

Please Contact Public Counsel’s Children’s Rights Project at (213) 385-2977 Ext. 500 For more Information

Note: There is an additional advocacy option for a child with an open delinquency or dependency case. The child’s attorney can request that a governmental agency, private service provider, or individual that has failed to meet a legal obligation to provide services to the child can be brought before the court. This is called joinder. Speak with the child’s attorney about having them make this request.
How do I appeal a Regional Center’s denial of services?

You can appeal the following kinds of regional center actions:

1. The regional center denied a requested service.
2. The regional center terminated, reduced, or changed services without agreement.
3. The regional center denied eligibility either through initial intake or upon assessment.
4. The regional center has found that the consumer is no longer eligible for its services.

The request for an appeal can be made by the consumer, a parent, legal guardian, conservator, developmental services decision-maker, education rights holder or someone else who is trying to help the consumer work with the regional center.

Note: The regional center must first send written notice if any of the above actions happen. The regional center cannot make changes to the IPP or IFSP without the consumer and/or family knowing about it and being informed of the right to appeal.
Lanterman Act appeal process:

Under the Lanterman Act, there are three ways that the consumer, or his or her representative, can appeal a regional center decision:

1. Informal meeting

A consumer or family member can request an informal meeting with the regional center. The regional center may not deny a request for an informal meeting.

2. Mediation

If the consumer does not want to have an informal meeting, or if he or she was not satisfied with the informal meeting, then mediation can be requested. However, the regional center may decline the request for mediation. Mediation is where a neutral person listens to both parties (client/child’s family and the regional center’s representative) and helps to resolve their differences.

3. Fair hearing.

A consumer may also request a fair hearing. The regional center may not deny a request for a fair hearing. However, the consumer must request a fair hearing within 30 days of receiving notice of the regional center’s decision. Furthermore, if the consumer is already receiving services from the regional center, then the consumer should submit a request for a fair hearing within 10 days of receiving notice in order to continue services while the hearing process is underway. This is called “Aid Paid Pending.” The consumer should file within 10 days of notification even if he or she wishes to first try to resolve the issue through an informal meeting and/or mediation.

In a fair hearing, an administrative law judge (ALJ) will listen to evidence from both parties (client/child’s family and the regional center’s representative) and make an independent decision about the disagreement. The consumer/child’s family can hire an attorney to represent the consumer at the hearing if they want. To request a fair hearing, a Fair Hearing Request form must be filled with the regional center. To get a Fair Hearing Request form, contact any regional center office or go online to: http://www.dds.ca.gov/Forms/FairHearing/DS1805.pdf.
During the appeal process, the consumer or his or her representative has the right to:

- Attend the informal meeting, mediation, and fair hearing with a lawyer or other support person;
- Receive information on availability of advocacy assistance;
- Present evidence and ask questions of witnesses at any appeal meeting;
- Look at any records obtained by the regional center while providing services;
- Have an interpreter at any meeting or hearing. If necessary, the regional center must pay for the interpreter.

Lanterman Act complaints: Section 4731 Complaints

In addition to the three ways to appeal regional center actions under the Lanterman Act described above, consumers or their representatives can file a Section 4731 complaint against a regional center or service provider if the consumer believes his or her rights have been violated or denied. This is different from the Fair Hearing process, which is used when the consumer disagrees with a regional center decision regarding eligibility or the services he or she is receiving or requesting. In contrast, a Section 4731 Complaint against the regional center or a service provider is appropriate if the consumer believes the regional center or provider has withheld a right to which the consumer is entitled under the law.

For example, if a consumer requests an IPP meeting but the regional center does not hold one within 30 days of the request, the consumer could file a Section 4731 complaint. This is because regional centers are required by law to hold an IPP meeting within 30 days of a request, and failure to do so would violate the consumer’s legal rights. On the other hand, a consumer should request a Fair Hearing if he or she disagrees with a regional center’s decision regarding eligibility or the appropriate amount of services requested at an IPP meeting.

To file a Section 4731 Complaint, write to the director of the regional center. The director must investigate and send a written response to the consumer, or his or her representative, within 20 working days of receiving the complaint. If the consumer disagrees with the director’s written response, he or she can write to the director of DDS within 15 working days of receiving the regional center director’s response. DDS will have 45 working days to investigate and send a written response to
the complaint. The decision of DDS regarding the Section 4731 Com-
plaint is final.

For more information about this process, please contact a local Clients’
Rights Advocate. To do this, please visit http://
www.disabilityrightsca.org/about/OCRA.htm or call Disability
Rights California (DRC) directly at (213) 213-8000.

Early Intervention appeal
process:

There are three different processes that can be used to deal with disa-
agreements regarding the Early Intervention Program (also known as
Early Start): complaints, mediation, and due process hearings.

Early Intervention complaints

Families may file an Early Start complaint against DDS, California De-
partment of Education (CDE), any regional center, local education
agency (LEA), or any private service provider receiving Early Start
funds. Much like a Section 4731 Complaint under the Lanterman Act,
an Early Start complaint can be filed if the family believes there has
been a violation of any federal or state statutes or regulations governing
Early Intervention services. For example, if someone acting on behalf
of the child requests an IFSP meeting but the regional center does not
hold one within 30 days of the request, an Early Start complaint could
be filed.

To file an Early Start complaint, an electronic form called the “Early
Intervention Complaint Investigation Request” can be filled out. It is
available online here: http://www.dds.ca.gov/Forms/docs/
DS1827.pdf.

Alternatively, a written and signed statement may be submitted instead
of the above form. The written statement should include the following
information:

- The name, address and telephone number of the person filing
  the complaint;
- A statement that a regional center, local education agency or
  any private service provider receiving Early Start funds has vio-
  lated any law or regulation governing Early Start;
- A statement of facts upon which the alleged violation is based;
- The party allegedly responsible; and
- A description of any voluntary steps taken at the local level to
  resolve the complaint, if any were taken.
All Early Start complaints (using either the electronic form or a written statement) should be mailed to:

**Department of Developmental Services**  
**Community Services Division**  
**Attention: Appeals, Complaints & Projects Section**  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 340 (MS 3-9)  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel.: (916) 651-6309 Fax: (916) 654-3641

DDS must investigate and issue a written decision within 60 days of receipt of the complaint. For more information regarding the complaint process please visit: [http://www.dds.ca.gov/Complaints/complt_es.cfm](http://www.dds.ca.gov/Complaints/complt_es.cfm).

**Early Intervention Mediation**

Mediation is a voluntary process that is non-binding and confidential. A neutral mediator can informally resolve disagreements between families and a regional center and/or LEA. You can file a request for mediation before you request a complaint or due process hearing, as an initial step. You can also request it at any time during the complaint or due process hearing processes. However, a complaint must be withdrawn once mediation is requested. Requests for mediation are filed with:

**Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)**  
**Attention: Early Start Intervention Section**  
2349 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
Tel.: (916) 263-0654 Fax: (916) 376-6318

**Early Intervention Due Process Hearings**

Disagreements related to identification, evaluation, assessment, placement, or services can be resolved through a due process hearing. A request form for a due process hearing can be obtained from the child’s service coordinator, the regional center, LEA, or the DDS website: [http://www.dds.ca.gov/Forms/docs/DS1802.pdf](http://www.dds.ca.gov/Forms/docs/DS1802.pdf).
In addition, a letter requesting due process may be accepted by OAH in lieu of the request form if all the pertinent information is submitted and the letter is signed by the requester. The Due Process hearing request should be filed with:

**Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)**  
**Attention: Early Start Intervention Section**  
2349 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833-4231  
**Voice:** (800) 515-BABY (2229)  
**Fax:** (916) 376-6318  
**Alternate Fax:** (916) 263-0549

The Early Intervention due process hearing must be completed within 30 days from the receipt of the request by OAH. Under the Early Intervention appeal process, applicable to both mediation and due process, services the child is receiving will continue until the appeal process is resolved.

Just like with Lanterman Fair Hearings, an ALJ will listen to evidence from both parties and make an independent decision about the disagreement. The consumer/child’s family can hire an attorney to represent the consumer at the hearing if they want.

**Foster Care, AAP, and Kin-GAP Benefits for Dual Agency Children**

Children who qualify for foster care payments (AFDC-FC), adoption assistance program (AAP) benefits, and Kinship Guardian Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) benefits who also are eligible to receive regional center services are know as Dual Agency children. Dual Agency children are entitled to receive the Dual Agency Rate for these benefits. In addition, a Supplement to the Dual Agency Rate may also be available and is discussed in more detail below.

**Current Dual Agency Rates**

The current Dual Agency Rates as of July 1, 2015 are as follows:

- $1,013.00 per month for children under the age of three who receive services under the Early Intervention Program (Early Start) through the regional center.
• $2,265.00 for children under age three that the regional center determines to have a developmental disability.
• $2,265.00 for children age three and older who are eligible for regional center services.
  ○ Children age three and older may also qualify to receive a supplement to the $2,265.00 rate of up to an additional $1,000 per month.

Supplement to the Dual Agency Rate

A Supplement is available for Dual Agency children age three and older who have extraordinary care and supervision needs, meaning that they have one or more of the following conditions:

• Severe deficits in self-help skills (i.e., bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting, etc.);
• Severe impairment in physical coordination and mobility;
• Severe medical condition (including severe vision, hearing, or speech impairments); and/or
• Severely disruptive or self-injurious behavior.

Depending on the severity of the child’s condition(s), and if the child has impairments in more than one of the categories above, an additional supplemental monthly payment of $250, $500, $750, or $1,000 is available. If the child is not receiving the appropriate rate or may be eligible for a supplement, contact the child’s dependency or adoption social worker immediately. If the child’s adoption finalized more than six months ago, call Post-Adoption Services (PAS). For Los Angeles County, the PAS number is (800) 735-4984.

Within 90 days of the request for a supplement assessment, DCFS will make a determination of the child’s eligibility. DCFS must send written confirmation of the date the request was made because generally that is the date increased benefits will begin if the supplement is awarded. DCFS will then send a Notice of Action including information about the right to appeal its assessment. In addition, upon request, DCFS will provided copies of the forms it used to make its decision regarding the supplement. Caregivers who disagree with DCFS determination regarding the Dual Agency Rate or Supplement may appeal to the State Hearings Division for an administrative hearing by calling:

California Department of Social Services
Public Inquiry and Response
Phone: (800)952-5253
Voice: (800)952-8349 (TDD)
## IMPORTANT TIMELINES

### Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>IDENTIFICATION &amp; REFERRAL</strong></th>
<th>The child may have a developmental disability or delay. Call your nearest regional center and ask to speak to an intake coordinator.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INITIAL INTAKE</strong></td>
<td>The regional center will call you <em>within 15 days</em> from receiving the referral. If applying for Early Start (ages 0 to 3), the intake process will be quicker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSESSMENT</strong></td>
<td>Under the Lanterman Act, the regional center will assess the child <em>within 120 days, or 60 days (in some cases)</em> from the initial intake. If applying for Early Start (ages 0 to 3), the assessment process will be quicker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELIGIBLE CHILD</strong></td>
<td>The regional center develops an IPP <em>within 60 days</em> from the completion of the assessment. For children applying for Early Start, the eligibility determination and an IFSP must both be developed <em>within 45 days</em> from the date of initial referral to the regional center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INELIGIBLE CHILD</strong></td>
<td>The regional center must send a letter <em>within 5 days</em> of its decision that the child does not qualify for services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPEAL</strong></td>
<td>File a “Fair Hearing Request” form <em>within 30 days</em> from receiving the notice from the Regional Center (See APPEALING A REGIONAL CENTER DECISION). To receive “Aid Paid Pending” under the Lanterman Act, you must file an appeal <em>within 10 days</em> of receiving the regional center’s notice. Services automatically continue during appeals under Early Start.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Please Contact
Public Counsel’s
Children’s Rights Project at
(213) 385-2977 Ext. 500
For more Information
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While this publication is designed to provide accurate and current information about the law, readers should contact an attorney or other expert for advice in particular cases, and should also consult the relevant statutes and court decisions when relying on cited materials.

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Do you have questions about the Regional Centers, such as:

- What services they provide?
- What are the requirements to qualify?
- What is an IPP?
- What is an IFSP?
- What is the appeal process?
- Are there any special benefits available to certain regional center children?

This booklet focuses on answering those questions and providing more information on regional center services.

**We are here to help.**

**Public Counsel**

HAVE QUESTIONS FOR AN ATTORNEY?

213-385-2977 X500

OR VISIT: WWW.PUBLICCOUNSEL.ORG

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PUBLICCOUNSEL.ORG