



Tri-Counties Regional Center

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR
PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



opening
doors



What are the Regional Centers?

The State of California contracts with 21 private non-profit corporations called regional centers, each one covering a different geographic region. The centers are the initial agency in each area where persons with developmental disabilities of all ages, and their families, can go for help to obtain services.

Who is Eligible for Services?

Children and adults are eligible who are substantially disabled due to conditions falling within the legal definitions of "developmental disability." These conditions are mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. Or, the person may have a condition closely related to mental retardation which requires similar treatment. The onset of these conditions must have been prior to age 18. Finally, an infant or young child under three may be accepted by the regional center as "high risk" because of a significant delay in one or more developmental areas, due to medical problems and complications, or because the infant's parent has a developmental disability.

What is the Referral Procedure?

Parents, guardians and conservators, or a person over age 18, begin by contacting the local office. An "inquiry" can be started by speaking with an Intake Service Coordinator or the On Duty Service Coordinator in each office. Professionals and other interested parties may also refer, but only with permission from the individual or family. The Intake Service Coordinator collects basic information, then arranges to meet in person to complete an assessment for eligibility.

What is Assessment?

The Service Coordinator obtains information from a variety of sources, including the applicant, family members, advocates and service providers. The purpose of intake is to assist families in understanding the nature of their situation and to determine whether a person is eligible for services. Future meetings will be established to develop a Person Centered Individual Program Plan. Information will be gathered and evaluations conducted toward this end.

What is a Person Centered Individual Program Plan?

Based upon hopes and dreams for the future as well as an assessment of the person's needs, preferences and life choices, the Person Centered Individual Program Plan states specific objectives to develop competencies and achieve personal goals in the areas of community participation, housing, work, school and leisure time. The plan includes a special section describing those services and supports necessary to maintain the child at home. The plan is written with input from the person with a developmental disability, parents, Service Coordinators and a wide circle of friends and relatives.

What is Service Coordination?

Service coordination assures that the Individual Program Plan is successfully implemented. Service coordination may be provided by regional center staff or other trained person. TCRC will offer special training to individuals, parents or other family members, legal guardians or conservators who want to become Service Coordinators.

What are Services and Supports?

The services and supports provided depend upon the capabilities and strengths, needs and preferences, concerns and problems of the individual or family. Some supports are provided by agencies mandated to serve the public (i.e. generic resources). Some are purchased by the regional center from vendors. Some are obtained from unpaid supports in the community.

What is the Charge for Services?

There is no charge for diagnosis and assessment of eligibility. Most services and supports are free, regardless of age or income. If a child under the age of 18 lives outside the home with regional center funding, parents are required to share the cost. The fee is established by DDS under the Parental Fee Program and depends upon the parents' ability to pay. For children (age 3 to 18) living at home, a co-payment may be required for Respite, Day Care and Camping costs. This is set through the Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP). Medi-Cal eligibility, family size and income are considered during FCPP assessment.

Developmental Services System

STATE SERVICES SYSTEM

- Legislature
- Governor
- Health & Welfare Services Agency
 - Social Services
 - Health Services
 - Developmental Services
- Regional Centers
- Developmental Centers
 - Rehabilitation
 - Mental Health

STATE / LOCAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Department of Education
- Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's)
- Local School Districts

FEDERAL PLANNING & ADVOCACY SYSTEM

- State Council
- Area Boards
- Protection & Advocacy, Inc. (PAI)

Tri-Counties Regional Center Office Locations

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Santa Barbara
520 East Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
805.962.7881
800.322.6994
FAX 805.884.7229

Santa Maria
1234 Fairway Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93455
805.922.4640
800.266.9071
FAX 805.922.4350

VENTURA COUNTY

Oxnard
2401 Gonzales Rd. Suite 100
Oxnard, CA 93036
805.485.3177
800.664.3177
FAX 805.988.9521

Simi Valley
1900 E. Los Angeles Ave.
Simi Valley, CA 93065
805.522.8030
800.517.2524
FAX 805.522.8142

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Atascadero
Hotel Park Business Center
6005 Capistrano, Suite E
Atascadero, CA 93422
805.461.7402
FAX 805.461.9479

San Luis Obispo
3450 Broad Street, Suite 111
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805.543.2833
800.456.4153
FAX 805.543.8725

MISSION

TCRC provides person and family centered planning, services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities to maximize opportunities and choices for living, working, learning and recreating in the community.

VISION

Persons with developmental disabilities live fully and safely as active and independent members of their community.