

Referral Information for Local Regional Centers

If you are concerned about the development of your child, you are encouraged to contact your local Regional Center to apply for services. Services are available to all people, regardless of age, cultural background, or income, who are believed to have a developmental disability.

First Contact

In order to arrange for a referral or an assessment, a parent or legal guardian must contact:

Alameda County: 510.618.6195 or earlystartreferrals@rceb.org

Contra Costa County: 510.618.6195

Santa Clara County: 800.404.5900 or intakeinquiry@sarc.org

Santa Benito County: 408.846.8805

Monterey County: 831.759.7500

Santa Cruz County: 831.728.1781

San Mateo County: 650.524.4500

*Individuals identified as ineligible are referred to appropriate agencies within the community.

Information Regarding the Referral Process

First Contact and Intake Interview: After the Regional Center has determined that a developmental disability may be present, an initial interview is scheduled. The interview is scheduled for as soon as the eligibility team can be assembled (preferably within 15 working days of the decision to assess). Information from that interview is compiled into a report. The eligibility determination team will gather additional information from school records, physicians, psychologists, and other professionals to assist in determining whether the applicant is developmentally disabled. Regional Center has up to 120 days from the date of the initial meeting to complete the eligibility determination.

Assessment: Assessment includes a review of a child's motor skills, communication and learning abilities, social interaction and emotional development. A vision and hearing screening and medical information is critical to determine if a child is at risk for having a developmental disability and is eligible for early start services. Assessments are conducted and eligibility is jointly determined by the Local Education Agency (LEA) and your local Regional Center. These agencies are the primary funding sources for early start services.

Joint Agency Consent: Parents/legal guardians will be asked to sign a joint agency release of information/consent form. This form is used to secure medical and developmental records, conduct assessment and share the information with others who will assist the child and family.

Individual and Family Service Plan: An Individual and Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed once eligibility is determined. The plan consists of goals objectives and services jointly agreed upon by the parents/legal guardians and the primary service agency. All parties will be given a copy of the plan. An IFSP meeting must be convened within 45 days of the initial referral. The IFSP will be reviewed with the family every six months.

Early Start Services:

- Assistive technology. Hearing services.
- Service coordination.
- Special instruction.
- Occupational and Physical Therapy.
- Speech and language service.
- Transportation.
- Vision services.
- Family training and home visits.

Transition Services: Three to six months prior to your child's third birthday, Regional Center service providers and your family will meet to develop a transition plan. This plan must address eligibility for preschool services in the community or through the LEA and must also address ongoing eligibility for Regional Center services. If preschool is through the LEA, your child must receive an Individual Educational Plan (IEP). Transitional services must be completed by your child's third birthday.