DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES & RESOURCES TO ADVANCE EQUITY

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1.	**African American and Hispanic/Latino Focus Groups**	Focus groups to bring together leaders from all over the state including self-advocates, service providers, family members, community-based organizations, staff from the regional centers and DDS to expand efforts to support service access and equity for the African American and Hispanic/Latino communities.	***Ongoing*** *Began July 2020 and May 2023, respectively*
2.	**Autism Focus Group**	Focus group of self-advocates (individuals) to provide recommendations to DDS on policies, services and supports that impact individuals on the autism spectrum.	***Ongoing*** *Began May 2023*
3.	**Bilingual/Multi-Lingual Pay differential for Direct Service Professionals**	Provide a pay differential to direct service professionals (DSP) who can communicate with consumers in a language or medium other than English.	***In progress*** *Soft rollout - 4 RCs*
4.	**Communication Assessments for Consumers who are Deaf**	Complete communication assessments for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to improve services.	***In development***
5.	**Community Navigator Program**	Establish a community navigator program using family resource centers to help families connect with services.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began Spring 2022*
6	**Consumer Electronic Records Management System (CERMS)**	Implement a statewide Consumer Electronic Records Management System to standardize and improve access to individual records.	***In development***
7.	**Coordinated Family Support Services**	A new service option to improve and expand supports for individuals living at home with their family.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began January 2023*

8.	Culturally Sensitive Child Find and Outreach*	Targeted and culturally sensitive outreach and Child Find to increase Early Start enrollment for children from communities that have low rates of participation in Early Start, or from families that are fearful of accessing services due to their immigration status, or families experiencing homelessness.	*Currently available* *Began Fall 2022*
9.	Data Definitions for Race, Ethnicity and Language	Establish common data definitions. Regional centers shall start recording race, ethnicity, preferred language at milestones.	*In development* *Public input underway*
10.	Deaf Access Specialists	Provide increased expertise at DDS and all regional centers to support services, and improve access and equity, for consumers who are deaf.	*Currently available, ongoing* *Began July 2022*
11.	Early Start Information Packet	Early Start packet is for parents and other caregivers of infants and toddlers who may have, or are at risk to have, developmental delays or disabilities. Provides details about the regional center system, resources, rights and other information about how to become eligible for services.	*Currently available*
12.	Early Start Outreach to Tribal Communities	Conduct engagement and outreach with tribal communities to improve access and utilization of Early Start services.	*Ongoing* *Began Spring 2022*
13.	Enhanced Service Coordination for Consumers with Low or No POS	Time-limited enhanced service coordination for up to 4,200 consumers annually with low or no purchase of service (POS) expenditures.	*Currently available, ongoing* *Began 2021*
14.	Expanded Early Start Eligibility Criteria	Lowering the eligibility threshold from 33 percent to 25 percent; separating communication delays to two distinct categories (expressive and/or receptive language); and identifying Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as a risk factor for developmental delays.	*Currently available, ongoing* *Began June 30, 2022*
15.	Expansion for Early Start Professionals*	Pilot a provider recruitment program to increase the availability of a provider network that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community.	*Currently available* *Began January 2023*

16.	**Implicit Bias Training for Regional Centers**	Implicit Bias training to all regional center personnel, as well as contracted staff involved in intake and assessment and eligibility determinations.	***Currently available*** *Began Fall 2023*
17.	**Independent Evaluation of the Service Access and Equity (SAE) Grant Program**	Contracted with Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence and Mission Analytics group for an independent evaluation of the SAE grant program.	***Currently available***
18.	**Language Access and Cultural Competency Orientations and Translations**	Promote language access and cultural competency across the regional center system through orientations and specialized group and family information sessions, culturally sensitive outreach efforts, and translation services.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began Summer 2022*
19.	**Lanterman Act Provisional Eligibility - Birth through age 4**	Establishes provisional eligibility for Lanterman Act services for infants and toddlers who meet specified eligibility requirements.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began July 2021 for ages 3 & 4* *Expanded in July 2023*
20.	**Lanterman Information Packet**	Packet will be focused on information related to the Lanterman Services Act and will be helpful for individuals, parents and other caregivers of individuals over the age of 3 years who may have, or are at risk to have, developmental delays or disabilities. This packet will provide details about the regional center system, resources, consumer rights and other information about how to become eligible for services.	***In development***
21.	**Rate Reform and Quality Incentive Program**	Multi-year process for rate adjustments and implementation of rate models, consistent with the 2019 Rate Study, which shall include a quality incentive program, create an enhanced person-centered, and outcomes-based system by July 1, 2025.	***In progress, ongoing***
22.	**Reduced Caseload Ratios Ages 0-5 to 1:40**	Reduce caseload ratios for children birth through age five to support access to services and through early childhood transitions.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began July 2023*

23.	**Regional Center Cultural Specialists**	Provide increased expertise at DDS and all regional centers to support services, and improve access and equity, for individuals from diverse backgrounds.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began Fall 2016*
24.	**Respite Cap Lifted**	Lifted statutory restrictions that limited purchase of in-home and out-of-home respite services.	***Ongoing*** *Began January 2018*
25.	**Review of Generic Services**	Provide information about generic services and coordination, evaluate availability of common services and supports.	***In development***
26.	**Service Access and Equity Grant Program**	Annual grant program for regional centers and community-based organizations to implement strategies to reduce disparities and increase equity in opportunities to access regional center services.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began 2016*
27.	**Service Provider Directory**	Establish an online statewide service provider directory to centralize information. When fully developed, the directory will make it possible to determine where services are available and needed, track development of new resources and be searchable by self-advocates and families to identify service options in their community.	***In development***
28.	**Social Recreation, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies**	Restore previously suspended social recreation services, camp services, educational services, and nonmedical therapies.	***Currently available, ongoing*** *Began July 2021*
29.	**Social Recreation Grants**	Grant program to enable regional centers and local communities (i.e., local park and recreation departments) to leverage local resources and increase integrated and collaborative social recreational options. (Limited term resources)	***Currently available*** *Began August 2023*

30.	**Spanish Translation of the Lanterman Act**	Spanish translation of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act as an additional resource to support individuals and families with access to the Lanterman Act.	*Currently available*
31.	**Standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP) Template**	Establish a standardized IPP template and procedures to be implemented statewide.	*In development* *Public input underway*
32.	**Standardized Intake Processes**	Establish standardized intake processes to be implemented statewide.	*In development*
33.	**Standardized Respite Assessment Procedures**	Establish standardized processes, including standardized templates, for assessing a consumer's need for respite services.	*In development*
34.	**Standardized Vendorization Procedures**	Establish standardized vendorization procedures to be implemented statewide.	*In development*
35.	**Training for Early Start Providers***	Culturally and linguistically sensitive training for Early Start providers to enhance participant outcomes such as implicit bias, Adverse Childhood Experiences and toxic stress, and reflective supervision training	*Currently available* *Began January 2023*
36.	**Transitional Support for Self-Determination Program**	Funding to support enrollment steps for participants entering the Self-Determination Program.	*Currently available, ongoing* *Began July 2022*
37.	**Wellness Grant***	Family wellness pilot program with Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) and Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) to provide support to parents when facing stress that may arise with their child's eligibility for Early Start.	*Currently available* *Began Spring 2023*