

# Master Plan for Developmental Services

## A Community Driven Vision

The goal of the Master Plan for Developmental Services (MPDS) is to improve how California supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families into the future. Equity was a guiding principle for the MPDS process, because there are people and communities in California who experience unfair treatment and unequal outcomes in the developmental services system. This report talks about ways to make the developmental services systems work better. It provides a vision for a future where people with I/DD have resources needed to thrive in the communities of their choice.

This plan was developed by a diverse group of stakeholders. A stakeholder is someone who is affected by an issue. The stakeholders who developed the MPDS included:

- People with I/DD
- Their family members
- Members of the workforce who support people with I/DD
- Other members of the community

All of the recommendations in the plan were developed with and by community stakeholders. The California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) provided staff and other support to stakeholders in developing the MPDS. The plan was developed to inform CalHHS, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and other state departments on how to achieve a shared vision for all Californians with I/DD.

### What Comes Next:

The MPDS will guide California's progress to:

- Better services and supports for people with I/DD
- Improved coordination across systems that serve people with I/DD
- People with I/DD being able to lead the lives they choose for themselves

Now that the MPDS is finalized, DDS will begin to work on many of the recommendations. This work will move forward in different working groups. DDS will also hold meetings two times per year to focus on work being done on the MPDS. These meetings will center the experiences of people with I/DD and their families, including people who contributed to the MPDS. Based on these efforts DDS will submit an annual report on progress on the MPDS to

**“We want the systems to work together instead of leaving people to navigate everything themselves.”**

--Viri

the legislature. Opportunities to join the conversations will be shared in the [DDS newsletter \(https://www.dds.ca.gov/category/newsletter\)](https://www.dds.ca.gov/category/newsletter) and on the [DDS website \(https://www.dds.ca.gov\)](https://www.dds.ca.gov) as they become available.

## **How the MPDS was Created:**

A MPDS Committee was appointed by the Secretary of CalHHS to lead work on developing the MPDS. Committee members had diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. The Committee met every month between April 2024 and March 2025. All Committee meetings were open to the public and allowed on-line participation. Committee meetings took place around the state.

Five workgroups were also created to focus on different goal areas. Each workgroup's job was to develop recommendations for their goal area. Recommendations from the workgroups were discussed during Committee meetings. Each workgroup was led by two co-chairs. One of the co-chairs was a person with I/DD, and the other was a family member of someone with I/DD.

People with I/DD who participated in the MPDS process are referred to as "self-advocates". By sharing their stories, experiences and ideas, self-advocates helped shape recommendations to provide equitable, consistent, and accessible services and policies. Self-advocates played a key role in developing the Master plan. They helped lead and guide the development of every recommendation in the Master Plan. Self-advocates received support to participate effectively and to share their own thoughts and opinions.

CalHHS also had a public engagement campaign during the MPDS process. This included many opportunities to engage with people with I/DD, their families, and other partners in their communities. The state held 47 community meetings to be sure a wide range of experiences were included in the MPDS. [For more information on public engagements visit the MPDS website \(https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services\)](https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services). CalHHS also launched the [#FutureofCalDDServices photo campaign \(https://www.dds.ca.gov/the-future-of-developmental-services/futureofcaldservices\)](https://www.dds.ca.gov/the-future-of-developmental-services/futureofcaldservices) to bring to life the faces of people involved in developing the MPDS. The goal of the public engagement campaign was to better understand hopes and dreams for an improved developmental services system.

## **MPDS Recommendations are organized by topic area. The six topics are:**

- Systems Serving People with I/DD Are Centered in Equity
- People with I/DD Making Their Own Life Choices
- People with I/DD Getting Services They Need and Choose
- People with I/DD Being Part of and Being Served by a Strong Workforce
- Accountability and Transparency in All Systems That Serve People with I/DD
- Guiding the Future of the Developmental Services System