



Master Plan for Developmental Services:

A Community-Driven Vision

March 2026 Report to the Legislature



SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

1:1 OVERVIEW

The Master Plan for Developmental Services: A Community-Driven Vision (MPDS) was released on March 28, 2025. The goal of the MPDS is to improve how California supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families into the future. The MPDS provides a vision for a future where people with I/DD have the resources needed to thrive in the communities of their choice. It is available online here, in many languages: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>.

At that link, there also is an editable shared document available every day, all year, for people to continuously provide implementation updates on the MPDS Recommendations. The recommendations are organized into six topic areas:



SYSTEMS SERVING PEOPLE WITH I/DD ARE CENTERED IN EQUITY

Addressing differences in service delivery for underserved communities by standardizing services statewide and removing language, cultural, and location barriers.



PEOPLE WITH I/DD MAKING THEIR OWN LIFE CHOICES

Providing tools and resources needed to support individuals in decision-making.



PEOPLE WITH I/DD GETTING SERVICES THEY NEED AND CHOOSE

Streamlining and simplifying processes to reduce wait times and provide timely access to critical services, as well as building better connections across state service systems.



PEOPLE WITH I/DD BEING PART OF AND BEING SERVED BY A STRONG WORKFORCE

Investing in training, improved compensation, and recruitment of direct support professionals.



ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN ALL SYSTEMS THAT SERVE PEOPLE WITH I/DD

Equipping individuals, families, advocates, and professionals with resources and information needed to understand how the state is providing the services.



DATA GUIDING THE FUTURE OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES SYSTEM

Establishing and implementing a clear measurement system to tell if needs are being met effectively and where improvements are needed.



1:2 WHO CREATED THE MPDS

The MPDS was developed by a diverse group of stakeholders, including:

- PEOPLE WITH I/DD
- FAMILY MEMBERS OF PEOPLE WITH I/DD
- ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
- REGIONAL CENTERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
- SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THEIR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS
- MEMBERS OF THE WORKFORCE WHO SUPPORT PEOPLE
- OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC BROADLY

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

All of the recommendations in the MPDS were developed by community stakeholders. The California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department provided staff and other support to these stakeholders in developing the MPDS.

SECTION 2: WHERE CALIFORNIA IS TODAY

2:1 SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION

This report is the first annual report to the Legislature summarizing implementation efforts related to MPDS recommendations. Annual reports are required through March 2036.

The Department has a wide variety of stakeholder groups designed to give input and advice on system improvements. These groups include existing work groups, councils, committees, subcommittees and focus groups, and the Department's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG).

Below is a list of many of the Department's stakeholder advisory groups. The work of these groups is informed by the MPDS.

- Employment Workgroup
- Quality Incentive Program Workgroup & Community Focus Groups
- Regional Center Performance Measures Workgroup
- Rate Reform Workgroup & Service-Type Focus Groups
- Black Equity Coalition Focus Group
- Latino/Hispanic Advisory Group
- Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Focus Group (in the process of being formed)
- Autism Focus Group
- LGBTQ+ Focus Group
- Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes and Community Crisis Home Provider Workgroup
- Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Specialized Healthcare Needs and Group Homes for Children with Special Health Care Needs Provider Workgroup
- Bridging I/DD and Aging, State Alliance Team
- Interagency Coordinated Council on Early Intervention
- Early Start and Youth Focus Groups
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Workgroup
- A variety of ad hoc stakeholder focus groups brought together on specific topics such as Home and Community Based Services Rules, the Standardized Respite Tool, the Coordinated Family Supports service, and several others.



There has been implementation activity in all six MPDS recommendation topic areas. Additionally, the MPDS Committee met for a full day on both August 5, 2025, and December 11, 2025. In those meetings, they described, updated, and reviewed implementation of all 167 MPDS recommendations. A variety of family and community organizations reported implementation progress, including:

- Acorns to Oak Trees
- Association of Regional Center Agencies
- Autism Society of the Inland Empire
- Aveanna Healthcare
- California Autism Professional Training and Information Network
- California Community Living Network
- California Disability Community Action Network
- Child Welfare Council
- Children Now
- Club 21 Learning and Resource Center
- Disability Rights California
- Disability Voices United
- Eastern LA Family Resource Center
- El Arc de California
- Family Empowerment Centers
- Family Resource Center of California/Family Voices of CA
- First 5 Center for Children's Policy
- Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
- Friends of Children with Special Needs
- Integrated Community Collaborative
- Lending Works
- North Bay Regional Center
- Parents Helping Parents
- Pragnya
- Redwood Coast regional center
- San Diego Regional center
- SEIU CA
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Statewide Self-Advocacy Network
- Taft College
- Tri Counties Regional Center

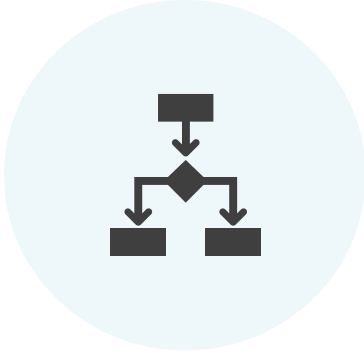
The attached report contains a full accounting of implementation for each of the 167 recommendations in the MPDS. Some implementation highlights include:

- The Governor’s Budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year continues to fund the development of the [Life Outcomes Improvement System \(LOIS\) project](#), to modernize California’s case management and fiscal system. The use of modern technology will provide improved access to information for individuals and families and service providers, more efficient case management, improved oversight and monitoring, and many other benefits consistent with major MPDS recommendations.



- Equity and access to standardized information in multiple languages are key themes in the MPDS. The Department has implemented a [Language Access Plan](#) for all vital documents and is discussing potential equity measures with the community. In 2026, the Department plans to officially publish a dashboard of these measures that can be used to monitor progress in addressing equity.

- Work will be concluded in 2026 to establish a consistent statewide definition of “generic services.” This is a major step forward in providing a predictable and consistent experience for individuals and families seeking access to regional center services, which regional centers provide as “payor of last resort.” It also will enable a focus on which services are most relied upon by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and how to improve coordination with those other programs and services to support people to achieve their goals.



- The Administration has proposed [budget trailer bill language](#) to professionalize the skillsets and training of regional center board members; remove accreditation, physical office location, and multiple vendorization requirements that are barriers for service providers to build and expand their services; facilitate the timely allocation to regional center of appropriated funding; and consolidate regional center contracts for performance, incentives, and compliance. All of these changes improve support and oversight of the developmental disabilities services system, remove barriers to service provision, and increase transparency and focus on the performance and outcomes expected by individuals and families.
- Employment is another prominent theme in the MPDS. Another 2026-27 Governor's Budget trailer bill proposal ([Employment Access Alignment](#)) would require people seeking employment to be given assistance, and have the departments involved figure out who should pay for the employment supports. This will reduce stress for people seeking work and accelerate their path to employment.



2:2 CONCLUSION

The MPDS continues to inform the work of the Department, regional centers, service providers, advocacy and trade associations, and the public. It is an important statement of what people want to see, and change, in the developmental disabilities services system. It calls for overcoming barriers, creating new opportunities, innovations and enhancements in services, reduced barriers to access for families, increased choice in how services are delivered, improved workforce retention efforts, and advancements in data collection and sharing, among many other things.

The full MPDS Committee meets each year in July and December. Now that an inventory exists of implementation efforts, the Committee will work in 2026 to identify statutory and funding changes that would be necessary to implement the MPDS recommendations for inclusion in the March 2027 report and for consideration by the Legislature and the Administration.

For the 2026-27 budget year, the Department expects to focus on continuing efforts, including but not limited to:

- Creating workforce development opportunities and resources to improve the capacity and skillsets of people working in our system
- Advancing equity and our collective understanding of how to evaluate it
- Protecting the sustainability of the developmental disabilities services system and the Lanterman Act in the face of state and federal fiscal concerns and policy changes
- Improving data collection and usage, including identifying ways to share data more easily between state departments and in turn with the regional centers, where appropriate through the [LOIS project](#) and other data-cleanup projects
- Continuing to protect and expand Early Start and early intervention services, making sure we are doing so in a culturally appropriate way
- Advancing efforts to educate our community, local educational agencies, and the judicial system on [alternatives to conservatorship](#), including supported decision-making, authorized representatives, and guardianship.
- Standardizing the intake process and respite assessments across all regional centers to improve consistency in the experiences of individuals and families and advance equity.
- And so much more!



Questions?

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