



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Regional Center

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Overview

- **Changes to Regional Center Eligibility**
 - **Early Start Program**
 - **Provisional Program**
- **Assessments, Eligibility and Program Planning**
 - **What happens after you refer a child to the RC?**
 - **Barriers**

Regional Center System

- Lanterman Act
- Non-profit Corporations that contract with D.D.S.
- 21 Regional Centers in California
- 7 Regional Centers in Los Angeles County
- **NLACRC serves San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys, about 29,000 consumers.**

Changes to Regional Center Eligibility

EARLY START

UNDER 3 YEARS:

- Children with a 25% or greater delay in one developmental domain

LANTERMAN

OVER 3 YEARS:

- Provisional Program: Children 3-4 years of age with a disability and two areas of impairment



Update: Early Start -Delay

Criteria for Delay

- Children under 36 months with a **25% delay or greater** in one or more developmental domains (July 2022)
- Previously a child needed a 33% delay in one or more developmental areas
- **Developmental areas:**
 - Cognitive
 - Motor
 - Communication (Receptive or Expressive)
 - Social/ Emotional
 - Adaptive

Early Start: Assessment

- Direct Assessment typically includes:
 - Developmental evaluation with a standardized tool
 - Additional Speech and Language evaluation or PT/ OT evaluation depending on clinical situation.
 - Determination of developmental levels for each domain
- Medical records needed to confirm high risk/established risk criteria

Case: Early Start (<3yrs)

Case Example: 2-year-old with language delay

- Referral Received
 - Consent to evaluate
- ES Case Manager is assigned, and family is called to complete the referral process
- Evaluations
 - Developmental assessments
- Eligibility determination



Case: Early Start-cont.

- Scheduling of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
 - Initial at 45 days and then q6 months
 - Program Planning
- Transition IFSP at 2.9 years
 - Transition to the Local Educational Agency (LEA)
 - Discussion of evaluation for Lanterman services
- Coordination with the school district to transition to preschool
 - Families will need to attend the transition meeting with the school district
- Assessments for services after 3 years

Update: Provisional Program

- Under the Lanterman Program (Over 3 yrs.)
- Children 3 to 4 years of age
- Diagnosed with a disability that is not solely physical in nature
- Significant functional limitation in two areas of major life activity
- Does not need to have a developmental disability (examples?)

Children will be re-assessed prior to age 5 to clarify the presence of a developmental disability and ongoing Lanterman services.

Lanterman/Provisional Eligibility: Assessment

- Request records (medical, educational, prior testing, if applicable)
- Intake Interview
- Psychological evaluation
 - Performed by Licensed Clinical Psychologist with expertise in cognitive and ASD assessments
 - Gold Standard assessment tools:
 - Cognitive Testing (WISC-V, WPPSI, etc.)
 - Autism specific testing (ADOS, ADIR)
 - Adaptive testing (Vineland, ABAS)
 - School observation, if indicated
- Review of medical records, if indicated to confirm a developmental disability

Lanterman/Provisional Eligibility: Timelines

Intake 15-day timeline to open the case

Is a disability suspected? Is there consent to evaluate?

Assessment 120-day timeline to determine eligibility

Social history, collection of medical and educational records, medical evaluation and/ or psychological evaluation as indicated, review by Interdisciplinary Team

Individual Program Plan (IPP) 60-day timeline

Development of goals, program planning, service implementation



Case: Over 3 years

Example Case: 4-year-old with language and social delays

- Case referral submitted
 - Consent to evaluate
- Assigned an Intake Case Manager
 - Comprehensive Intake Interview
- Case forwarded for scheduling of assessments
 - Psychological evaluation
- Eligibility determination: Provisional vs. Lanterman
- Development of the Individual Program Plan (IPP)

Summary

- Changes to ES and the addition of the Provisional Program make it more likely that children 0-5 years of age will be served by RCs
- Steps you can take to decrease barriers to accessing RC services:
 - Complete as much of the referral with the family in your office as possible, including consents
 - Clear communication with the family regarding your concerns and the reason for the referral
 - Any information you can provide regarding the referral is helpful
- If you or the family has questions about the eligibility process, please call the RC and ask to speak to the assigned Case Manager

Helpful links

- NLACRC website
 - www.nlacrc.org
 - Application and Guide for Consumer and Family
- DDS website for information regarding RCs and services
 - [Home - CA Department of Developmental Services \(www.dds.ca.gov\)](http://www.dds.ca.gov)
- LA County RCs Lookup
 - [Regional Center Lookup - CA Department of Developmental Services \(www.dds.ca.gov/rc/lookup-rCs-by-county/\)](http://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/lookup-rCs-by-county/)
- Family Resource Centers (FRC)
 - Link Families to other parents and resources
 - [Family Resource Centers Network of California \(frcnca.org\)](http://frcnca.org)
 - [Family Focus Resource Center | California State University, Northridge \(www.csun.edu/family-focus-resource-center\)](http://www.csun.edu/family-focus-resource-center)

