

May 26, 2026

Senator Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services

Assemblymember Dr. Corey A. Jackson
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget, Subcommittee #2 on Human Services

RE: Department of Developmental Services (4300) – May Revision Proposed Trailer Bill Language

Honorable Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Dr. Jackson:

California's regional centers are a network of 21 community-based non-profits, represented by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). The regional centers coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of, nearly 500,000 Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed May Revision Trailer Bill Language (TBL) for FY 2026-27 for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Following are specific high-level comments on the various proposals:

1. Rate Model Updates: Tailored Day Services (TDS)
ARCA supports this proposal as it would permit individuals to access needed services to support them in employment settings while exploring other interests and developing other skills. TDS is an individualized service model that is limited by its total number of allowable service hours. Combining TDS with individual supported employment will help fill this service gap for some individuals.
2. Rate Model Updates: Family Teaching Model
ARCA supports this proposal to develop a rate model for this service, which differs from the Family Home Agency model it is now funded under. Service rates should match service models and structure.
3. Community-Based Facility Purchases
ARCA supports this proposal that will remove administrative barriers from accessing needed supplies and equipment for those in state operated residential facilities.
4. Developmental Services State Operated Transitional and Rehabilitative Services
ARCA supports the philosophical movement away from long-term support residential placement in restrictive settings for those with IDD. It should be noted, however, that the principal reason some individuals have not been able to transition into community-based settings is because the service models to support them do not yet exist. To achieve the desired outcomes in this proposal, the state will need to invest in both the development of additional resources tailored to meet the complex needs of individuals as well as the regional center staff necessary to support their transition to back to the community.

5. Merge Community Placement Plan (CPP) and Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) to Align with Current Developmental Services Delivery System

ARCA appreciates the proposal to combine these processes as the developmental services system continues to support a broader range of needs in the community. ARCA notes ahead of implementation of this policy, however, that while the Service Provider Directory is a useful tool to evaluate overall service availability, it is important to also consider population size and utilization trends rather than the raw numbers of service providers when analyzing needed resource development.

6. Equitable and Consistent Needs Assessment

ARCA continues to analyze the implications of this proposal. While we recognize and appreciate the interest in more consistent regional center eligibility decisions and needs assessment procedures, ARCA suggests discussions on this concept and the associated TBL continue into the summer. This would give the Administration, the Legislature, and various stakeholders the opportunity to fully explore how to balance consistency with person-centeredness in needs determinations as well as the operational implications of this proposal.

When considered in combination with the TBL proposals introduced in conjunction with the Governor's Budget for developmental services, it is clear the system continues to undergo significant changes to align current needs with structures and systems designed to meet them. ARCA is committed to partnering with those served, their family members, advocates, service providers, the Administration, and the Legislature to advance services and supports for Californians with IDD in alignment with the promise of the Lanterman Act.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amy Westling

Executive Director

CC: Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Kim Johnson, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency
Pete Cervinka, Director, Department of Developmental Services
Mareva Brown, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President Pro Tempore
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