



ARCA Statement on the Importance of Federal Funding

Nearly 500,000 Californians with developmental disabilities are part of our communities. Federal funding is critically important to supporting them to meet their person-centered goals. Any changes to federal funding should not put their services at risk.

Government programs help people, including those served by regional centers, to reach their educational, vocational, and other life goals. Many of these programs are paid for through a combination of state and federal funding through long-standing agreements that programs will meet federal rules. For example, California gets over \$5 billion every year in federal funding for regional center services. Most of that federal money supports people to live with their families or independently in their communities. While our national leaders are focused on ways to reduce federal spending, each decision will have real world consequences for Californians with disabilities.

There are many other ways that federal funds directly improve the lives of people served by regional centers, including:

- Child development in the Early Start and Head Start programs and CalWorks childcare programs.
- Special education in schools and Disabled Student Services in colleges help people to learn and develop life skills.
- Job training and support are provided not only by service providers, but also through schools and the Department of Rehabilitation.
- Social Security's SSI critical payments help many people pay for housing and other living expenses.
- Affordable housing programs, including Housing Choice vouchers, make housing more affordable, which supports independence and community membership.
- Food assistance programs connect people with enough healthy food to eat.
- Medi-Cal is health insurance that pays for many services, including standard doctor visits, hospital stays, and medications.
- Dental services are a critical part of caring for a person's physical health needs; Denti-Cal makes this type of care possible for many.
- In-Home Support Services means caregivers support people to live where they choose to.

Each of these services – and many others – get federal funding. They all help people with developmental disabilities live in their communities. Federal funding comes from taxpayers in every state to support important programs all over the country. Californians pay more to the federal government than the state receives in federal funding. Policymakers talk about changing federal funding in a lot of ways that would mean less federal money for important programs now or in the future. Any changes to federal funding should not reduce services or require states to pay more for them. We must make sure people served by regional centers get the services they need.