

May 17, 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

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 thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Governor’s May Revision for FY 2026-27 for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

ARCA and its member regional centers appreciate the thoughtful approach to the May Revision for developmental services, which will allow DDS, community-based service providers, and regional centers to continue supporting individuals with IDD and their families while looking to the future. Specifically, ARCA supports the following:

- Extension of the implementation date for the new, less bureaucratic grievance procedure and investment in regional center staffing to support it;
- Authority for the development of new rate models for center-based early intervention services and the family teaching model;
- Allowance for individuals receiving supported employment services to receive additional individualized Tailored Day Services; and,
- Flexibility for DDS to purchase needed supplies, including food, for the facilities it operates through a less rigid, but still fiscally sound process.

ARCA is in the process of evaluating the introduced Trailer Bill Language related to the proposed equitable and consistent needs assessment, merging of the Community Placement Plan and Community Resource Development Plan, and changes to the timelines for service at Porterville Developmental Center and Canyon Springs Community Facility. Consultation with regional center staff who work directly in these areas has begun and will inform the development of ARCA’s position soon.

While not in the DDS portion of the May Revision, ARCA strongly opposes the proposal to reduce the asset limit for Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) from \$130,000 to \$2,000 for an individual. As it pertains to people with IDD, many who lose IHSS would turn to regional centers to backfill those services. The hourly rate of comparable services through regional centers is higher than IHSS, and these costs would be paid entirely by the

General Fund, because the loss of Medi-Cal also means the loss of federal billing for that person's services through the regional center. For IHSS recipients not served by regional centers, this proposal will pose a significant barrier to needed services in the community and may drive them towards more restrictive and more expensive options, such as nursing facilities. Implementation of this proposal would push tens of thousands of Californians off Medi-Cal and IHSS and force others to live in poverty to remain eligible. It is short-sighted and fiscally unsound.

As the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget deliberations continue, ARCA looks forward to ongoing conversations with people served by regional centers, their family members, the Legislature, the Administration, and community organizations about these impactful issues. The IDD community appreciates the thoughtful approach to policymaking that includes careful consideration of their needs.

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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