

Regional Center Self-Determination Program Implementation Fund Spending

Far Northern Regional Center

The Far Northern Regional Center, Local Self-Determination Advisory Committee will be utilizing this year's round of implementation funding in the following ways:

- Continued funding of the Project Coordinator Position which is key in implementation of community outreach and events.
- Update current SDP brochures to reflect the current program. (English and Spanish)
- Ongoing Spanish translation of meeting agenda and associated packet in coordination with an in-person translator at each meeting and associated event within the community.
- Schedule and implement additional showings of The Self-Determination Program, a short documentary film following three families and their journey. The overarching goal is to show this film in each of the nine counties that make up the North State region.
- Post-showing of the short documentary film, implementation of in-person workshops within the County where the film was shown. Self-Determination Program Workshops will focus on the “nuts and bolts” of the program. An opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how the program and each component operates. Workshops to be offered in English and Spanish.
- Last of all, funds will be utilized to support the Chair and Project Coordinator in attending and presenting on Self-Determination at the Region 2 People First Conference.

Golden Gate Regional Center

GGRC has divided its funding into three goal areas that committee workgroups will address throughout the year.

- Goal Area #1 will focus on providing SDP Participant Onboarding Support, including funding an SDP learning manual for social workers, monthly in-person and virtual meet-and-greets, and engaging a Survey Monkey or similar service.

- Goal Area #2 will concentrate on Outreach & Equity Coordination Support. This will include partnering with other Bay Area LACs to create and maintain a Bay Area Website to help SDP participants navigate the process, find resources, and make a community. This goal will also make GGRC SDP materials accessible by translating them and providing interpretation at SDAC meetings and meet-and-greets.
- Goal Area #3 will focus on Data Coordination Support, which includes assisting with processes and tools in partnership with GGRC. This will allow GGRC and the SDAC to monitor and track people's progress transitioning to SDP more easily. It will also use data to identify and address bottlenecks and specific barriers to people transitioning to SDP and enjoying their SDP year to year.

Kern Regional Center

Current Round of Funding

Funds in the amount of \$78,024.99 have been allocated by DDS to Kern Regional Center (KRC) to support implementation of the SDP. On April 9, 2024, a Request for Proposal has been completed and posted, seeking proposals to assist SDP families and individuals in transitioning to the SDP.

Priorities identified by DDS include recruitment and training of independent facilitators, training for participants, families, regional center staff and others, support or coaching, assistance with spending plan development, orientation support, and collaborative sharing of learning and problem-solving opportunities.

The KRC SDLAC has highlighted “outreach activities” as a key strategy toward implementation priorities, as well emphasized the need for services and written materials to be provided in Spanish and English. Anticipated outreach activities include resource fairs, video development, Q & A sessions, mass marketing campaign, and vendor training sessions.

KRC expects proposals for expenditure of funds to be presented by April 30, 2024. Award of contract(s) will be made following a discussion at the SDLAC meeting on May 6, 2024.

Prior Rounds of Funding

Implementation of funding in prior years has been completed by 3 organizations to whom contracts have been awarded. Primary focus has been on “fast track” coaching to assist prospective participants in completing enrollment in the SDP, with measurable success. The coaching supports include trainings in English and Spanish languages, assistance in completing orientation, PCP, selection of IF and FMS, budget and spending plan development, and transition to the SDP. Secondary focus has been

on activities including outreach, attendance at resource fairs, mentoring of IFs, orientation support, and development of marketing materials.

Inland Regional Center

The IRC SDAC has approved several projects from SDP funding at IRC:

- Self Determination Advisory Committee - members training (completed)
- Self Determination Conference - scheduled for June.
- Books on SDP - Thinking Out of the Box - approved for purchase to be provided to conference attendees.

The committee has also approved IRC to find a CBO to contract with to put up a Spanish language SDP conference and contract with agencies to provide training for Facilitation (IF and transition) for SDP.

North Los Angeles Regional Center

For the current RFP monies allotted for 2024, that we must expend by March 2025, in the amount of \$127,698.71, NLARC is funding Coaching Services, two IF certification trainings and workshops, monthly support group meetings facilitated by an outside agency, six trainings based on the community feedback and need, an annual resource fair, and interpretation and translation services. All monies are committed.

For the allotment scheduled for 2025, the committee has agreed to continue coaching services and the monthly support group. The committee is in discussions about funding a workflow process analysis by a certified specialist. The committee has met with the specialist and is working to get the NLACRC stakeholders to agree to this project. The committee is also discussing continuing the IF certification training. The goal is to complete these discussions and issue RFPs for the upcoming year by next month.

Regional Center of the East Bay

Funds expiring in 2024:

- Continued funding for an administrative assistant for the local advisory committee. He supports our committee by taking our meeting notes and setting up translation for the monthly meetings.

- Funded the creation of several information sheets to be used by and with people wanting to learn more about various aspects of SDP. The finished document will be available in both English and Spanish.
- Worked with a contractor to offer four webinars (2 in English and 2 in Spanish) on aspects of SDP for those who are already enrolled.
- Provide translation at our monthly meetings and interpretation of documents/resources created by the local advisory committee.
- Offered an in-depth IF training for 30 attendees who are committed to working as IFs in our local community.
- Worked with two contractors to do outreach to our underserved communities to identify barriers to enrollment in SDP and suggest ways to better support those communities. The specific communities we did this outreach with are Black and Latinx.

Funds expiring in 2025:

A workgroup was formed to discuss funding priority planning. The work group reviewed past funded projects and current needs that may benefit from the latest round of DDS funding. The work group developed funding priority groups of work that align with both DDS and the needs of the region.

1. Workforce / Services Development -- Recruitment and training of person-centered planning and Self-Directed (SD) Supports providers and independent facilitators with a focus on increasing the number of bilingual, bicultural providers.
 - Add to statement above “and persons with lived experience as Self or Family Advocates.”
 - Offer advanced/ in-depth IF trainings.
 - Create IF and Regional Center collaboration/roundtable: Closed convos, troubleshooting, relationship building.
 - Grow pre-enrollment support providers and offerings in region.
2. Joint training for participants, families, regional centers, LVAC members and others with a focus on training self-advocates and families from diverse communities that are under-represented in the SDP.
 - Workshops on navigating traditional and SDP services: Lingo, processes, rights, acronyms, service codes, expectation setting, differences between traditional and SDP. Audience: Self-Advocates, family advocates, RCEB staff

- Post-orientation coaching and/or consultation. Topic examples include: how to find IFs, how to find pre-enrollment supports, networking, specific problem solving and ideas sharing, experience sharing, etc.
 - Post SDP enrollment coaching and/or consultation. Topics could include: Transition to subsequent years, assistance with spending plan development and what can be put in a spending plan.
 - Invest in RCEB-specific Learning Management System with multimedia and dynamic content provision for self or family advocates: Would include Plain language trainings, updates, discussion, etc.
3. Collaborative groups/workshops to foster ongoing, shared learning and problem-solving opportunities.
- Funds earmarked so RCEB clients and support people to attend trainings/workshops/conferences offered. Funds would cover registration or admission fees, not travel, lodging, etc.

Other Notes / Spending Considerations:

- Collect RFPs of quality as examples to consider.
- Access to underserved communities: outreach and through onboarding and potentially other stages. Ensuing SA's are included and targeted in all projects and target areas.
- Accessibility Commitment: ALL training / workshop material should be plain language and accessible. All should be self-advocate targeted (multi-media, multi-approach, flow charts, prompts, videos, e-learning). All training/ workshop material should be in multiple languages.
- Bay Area website launch and maintenance.
- RCEB SDAC Administrative Assistant
- Surveying tech?
- Accessibility and plain language training, and ongoing contract for services?
- Translation of existing SDP products

Regional Center of Orange County

For Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022:

- DVU Books \$10,408
- Aveanna Coaching \$3,113

For fiscal Year 2022 – 2023:

- DVU Conference 2022 \$5,925

- SCDD IF Training Vietnamese \$1000
- DVU Conference 2023 \$5,450
- SPR Resource Fair \$15,000
- SDP Resource Fair Follow-up \$15,000 (pending)
- PCP Training DVU \$5250 (pending)
- PCP Training Bill G \$15,700 (pending)

San Andreas Regional Center

The SARC SDAC has proposed to utilize its funding towards the implementation of its SDP Ambassador Program, which would entail the following:

- Periodic roundtable meetings at the three different offices of SARC (Watsonville, Salinas and San Jose) in person with specific groups of members from the underserved communities (Spanish, Vietnamese, Asian, South Asian, Filipino, Self-Advocates with minimal natural supports) throughout the year (8-12 meetings in the year) to discuss the program, barriers they are experiencing, provide technical support and guidance.
- Provision of food, transportation, and childcare for them to be able to attend these meetings.
- Offering a contract position to a Self-Advocate or a Parent Advocate to help coordinate these meetings in tandem with the RC and the Committee Member Reps.

The Committee has passed and approved this program and is waiting on SARC's Executive Director to provide the logistics and the final go ahead on how this will roll out.

San Diego Regional Center

The LVAC facilitated several public meetings to determine how to spend implementation funds. These meetings included family advocates, self-advocates, regional center staff, Independent Facilitators, FMS, and local vendor agency representatives. Attendees provided input and established needs/priorities which include the following:

- Develop/curate culturally responsive and linguistically accessible, plain language Information, resources, and pathways for Self-Determination utilizing multiple modalities (visual, print, digital, video, infographics) to reduce barriers and facilitate transition and ongoing support for self-advocates, families, and community-- Breakdown new and existing information and key concepts.
- Support self-advocates by offering training, mentoring, and skill building opportunities specific to their needs, and ongoing technical assistance.
- Host annual conferences, resource fairs, or community activities in San Diego and Imperial County
- Fund LVAC project coordinator to facilitate LVAC activities and liaise with SDRC staff and committee.
- Provide access to technical assistance for SDP clients/families.
- Continue Power Hour Sessions on hot topics and other networking opportunities.

Valley Mountain Regional Center

VMRC has used (or has plans to use) implementation funds on the following projects:

- Paid registration for last couple years for parents/self-advocates to attend the DVU conference.
- SDP books have been purchased in English and Spanish
- Creation of Orientation Manuals (purchase of binders, copying and paying self-advocates to assemble).
- Hold a VMRC SDAC Self Determination Conference in the region (awaiting committee approval).
- Hold/Host an annual meeting each June that is open to all and includes a meal and possible childcare to encourage people to look into the program.
- Purchase of SDP VMRC materials for outreach events (pop up, signage, handout items).

- Contract for hand over hand assistance through Adjoin and ICC (selected through the Request for Proposals (RFP) with VMRC resource development dept)

Upcoming projects include:

- Training to families and participants new to SDP or interested to learn more (more hands-on training)
- Hosting a roundtable of multidisciplinary experts in SDP (FMS, IF, regional center representatives, etc.) to provide information to consumers and their families (may convert this into an event or conference, pending approval from the committee)

The Committee is also hoping to have an IF roundtable with VMRC (similar to those of other RC's) to help work on preventing barriers and disparities and support equal access to SDP services.