

# SSDAC Best Practices Platform Updates

In recognition of the promising and best practices that were discussed at the June 24, 2025 SSDAC meeting, the following updates have been made to the [SSDAC Best Practices Platform \(BPP\)](#)

## Regional Center Self-Determination Units

North Bay Regional Center has created a Self-Determination Program unit. This unit is made up of an SDP Manager, five Participant Choice Coordinators, and a Client Service Assistant. NBRC has reportedly seen enrollment almost double between January of 2024 and May of 2025. For more information, See the [North Bay Regional Center Promising Practice Presentation Slides](#). These slides also have information about the outreach and training projects that the regional center and Local Volunteer Advisory Committee are working on to inform their communities about the SDP.

## Collaborative Projects Between Regional Centers

Chairs of the Local Volunteer Advisory Committees (LVAC) at Golden Gate Regional Center, San Andreas Regional Center, and Regional Center of the East Bay began meeting in December of 2020 to share information, ideas and challenges. The chairs decided to form a joint subcommittee with representatives from each LVAC. They decided that each regional center would dedicate implementation funds to creating a Bay Area Self-Determination Program website. The SSDAC recognizes this collaborative approach to solving regional problems as a promising practice. Once launched, the website will be linked to this webpage. For more information about how these regional centers approached this project, please see the [SDP Bay Area Website Presentation slides](#).

## LVAC Best/Promising Practices Subcommittees

Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) and North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) LVACs have established best and/or promising practice subcommittees, allowing them to work more closely with regional center SDP teams to identify and address specific barriers collaboratively. NLACRC has included Department of Developmental Services (DDS) staff and recipients of regional center implementation funds in these meetings to provide information, input and technical assistance, and reports that this practice has been instrumental in establishing next steps and coordinating to address issues as they arise. FNRC has reported that their promising practice subcommittee has supported the coordination and planning of projects and allowed for more detailed and dedicated work.

## LVAC Project Coordinator

The Far Northern Regional Center's Local Volunteer Advisory Committee has established a Project Coordinator position using Implementation Funding. The Project Coordinator is an employee of the LVAC who organizes, coordinates, and facilitates the LVAC's workgroups. This position has been key to the success of the LVAC. The Project Coordinator's responsibilities include:

- Attend monthly LVAC meetings
- Facilitate/Participate in workgroups
- Ensure completion of projects
- Communicate status of projects and any barriers to the LVAC
- Provide monthly invoices to LVAC with project progress report.
- Work in partnership with Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC), State Council on Development Disabilities, Disability Rights California, community partners, SDP Participants and the LVAC.

## Direct Coaching for SDP Participants

Several regional centers have reported that providing direct one-on-one and group coaching sessions have been instrumental in helping families who are interested in participating in the Self-Determination Program get through the initial enrollment process.

Golden Gate Regional Center's SDP Community Building & Onboarding Program includes one-on-one coaching, group coaching, webinars, a monthly support group, and outreach initiatives.

San Gabriel/Pamona Regional Center is using implementation funds to offer three (3) SDP Coaching Series to support participants/families who have completed SDP Orientation but continue to need guidance. These coaching series help participants better understand the enrollment process and how to work with Independent Facilitators Financial Management Services.

Kern Regional Center has seen increased enrollment in SDP after awarding Implementation Funds to organizations that provided direct coaching to people from underserved populations as they navigate through the Self-Determination Program transition process. The regional center saw 70 new SDP Participants transition into the program in just six months (September 2024 - March 2025).

## Supporting Bilingual Independent Facilitators

The Harbor Regional Center Local Volunteer Advisory Committee has awarded Implementation Funds to two organizations to address the specific demographic needs of the Harbor Regional Community. These organizations are dedicated to providing training and support for bilingual, Spanish and English-speaking Independent Facilitators (IFs) who will work with bilingual or Spanish monolingual Self-Determination Program participants to ensure their success in the program. The LVAC has also allocated funds to support these organizations in training IFs who will focus on meeting the specific needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The SSDAC recognizes this approach as a promising practice.

## Targeted Outreach Events

The SSDAC recommends the use of targeted outreach events to increase access to Self-Determination Program-related information and reduce disparities in underserved communities.

**Example of this best practice:** Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) allocated funds to organizations that planned and executed targeted outreach events to the Black community and the Spanish-speaking community. The regional center released separate Request for Proposals for each in order to attract organizations that were already involved with serving the targeted communities and could tailor their approach to meet the needs of each population.

- RCEB funded a Spanish-language Self-Determination Program conference ([Feria de Autodeterminación 2025](#)), held by an organization that has a longstanding reputation for holding culturally sensitive and inclusive events that serve the region's Spanish speaking community.
- To reach families in the Black community, RCEB provided funds to two Independent Facilitator organizations to host a table at a Black Joy Parade in February 2025, and to host a Self-Determination Program Webinar in March 2025. The webinar was attended by 130 people. [Black Choice SDP East Bay](#) established a website to house information about these events.