



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## BRIEF OVERVIEW STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### **Brief History**

The Area Boards were established by California state law (Division 4.5 of the Welfare & Institutions Code, §§ 4500 through 4905, otherwise known as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act) thirty-five years ago, when the legislature determined that the state was so large, and its population so complex, that the civil, legal and services rights of Californians with developmental disabilities and their families would best be served by a network of independent state agencies.

Around that same time, the federal government, through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), established a national network of Developmental Disabilities Councils (later changed to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities) to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families would have the services and supports they need to live as independently and productively, in as integrated a setting, as possible.

For more than thirty years, the Area Boards, under the Organization of Area Boards (OAB), and the State Council functioned independently, until the legislature determined, in 2002, that it was in the best interests of consumers and their families to merge the two systems. This merger made California unique among the State Councils in the fifty states and five territories, as it has the only State Council with a network of regional offices which help it address the local concerns and needs of residents throughout the state.

Welfare & Institutions Code § 4541(a)(1) directs and authorizes the State Council to ensure the protection of civil and service rights of persons with developmental disabilities...." Since the merger, the Area Board offices continued to provide advocacy assistance to consumers and their families, as well as address systemic and capacity-building issues through community education and collaboration with governmental and other community agencies.

On September 18, 2014, Governor Brown passed Assembly Bill 1595 (AB 1595), which amended the Lanterman Act in order for the State Council to become compliant with the DD Act (to match our role within State and federal law). This was done in response to several audits from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), the federal agency that funds, oversees, and ensures the State Councils are complying with the DD Act. As a result, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) made the following changes:

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

- (1) The State Council shall maintain leadership of all local offices (under one organization) and set standard policies and procedures for implementing the State Plan
- (2) Recast area board offices as SCDD regional offices
- (3) Recast area board of directors as SCDD regional advisory committees
- (4) Redefines the role of the regional offices to identify local community issues and advise the State Council to the goals of the State Plan
- (5) Local offices are to cease providing direct services (individual advocacy) and focus on systemic advocacy, including training; identifying barriers at the local level; outreach activities; and address systemic and capacity-building issues through community education and collaboration with governmental and other community agencies.

Essentially, regional offices and Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) provide the State Council with information regarding local concerns and unmet needs to assist the Council in developing and carrying out its federally mandated objectives, addressing issues in education, employment, housing, health care, self-determination, transportation, child care, and quality assurance.

### **Basic State Grant**

The State Council supports the local 13 regional offices, which provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families including, but not limited to, advocacy assistance, training, monitoring and public information.

SCDD is part of the Developmental Disabilities Network as outlined by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The DD Network works independently through federal funding provided by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities under the leadership of the Administration for Community Living in the Department of Health and Human Services. SCDD, and all DD Councils, are made up of voluntary members appointed by the state's governor. By law, the majority of members must have a developmental disability or be a family member to a person with developmental disability. The focus is on creating programs and advocating for policy that empower individuals with developmental disabilities, creating an environment of self-sufficiency, self-determination, inclusion, and acceptance.

In California, the areas of focus for this contract are in accordance with the State Council's State Plan goals: Self-Advocacy; Rights Training & Advocacy; Quality Assurance & Innovation; Public Safety Outreach; Emergency Preparedness; Adult Transition; Early Start; Employment First; Employment/Post-Secondary Education Advocacy; Health; Housing Access; Generic Services (regional centers, IHSS, SSA, CCS, etc.); and Multi-Cultural Advocacy.

By providing services in the areas stated above, the regional offices ensure that appropriate laws, regulations and policies pertaining to the rights of individuals are observed and protected. Each regional office participates in the development and implementation of the Council's goals and objectives.

### **Quality Assessment Project**

In May 2010, The State Council on Developmental Disabilities, in cooperation with The Department of Developmental Services and Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), joined 26 other states in conducting quality assessment interviews using the nationally recognized National Core Indicators (NCI) assessment tool. The surveys can be viewed on the DDS website at [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov) (Quality Assessment/National Core Indicators tab).

National Core Indicators strives to provide states with valid and reliable tools to help improve system performance and better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The core indicators are standard measures used across states to assess the outcomes of services provided to individuals and families. Indicators address key areas of concern including employment, rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety.

The State Council collects data across the state of California through face to face interviews with adult consumers, as well as through surveys mailed to families of children and adults with developmental disabilities. The data collection effort enables DDS to evaluate the quality and performance of California's developmental disability service delivery system and among all the 21 regional centers.

In January 2016, the Quality Assessment Project started following individuals who moved out of a developmental center (e.g. Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa) as part of the Mover Longitudinal Study (MLS) to answer questions about how and why changes in services occur over time for people who move from a developmental center to the community. The MLS will describe changes in safety, health, and well-being after a move into the community at four different points in time (three months, six-months, one-year, and two-years). Additionally, family member perceptions of the quality of services received, system responsiveness, and overall satisfaction will be assessed over the same two year timeframe. The proposed MLS will also examine an individual mover's and family member's experience of the transition planning meeting. Data from the MLS will be used to help the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the regional centers monitor and improve the services and supports provided, and identify and remediate gaps in the community services system.

The State Council conducts face to face interviews with these individuals and collects mail in surveys with families with individual and family results linked together for analysis.

### **Clients' Rights and Volunteer Advocacy Services**

The California legislature declared in Welfare & Institutions Code § 4433(a)(1) that California has a responsibility to "ensure and uphold the rights of persons with developmental disabilities", as well as an "obligation to ensure that laws, regulations, and policies on the rights of persons with developmental disabilities are observed and protected." Those rights of consumers living in the community and in developmental centers are enumerated in W &I Code § 4502 and 4503 and paraphrased below:

- (1) The right to treatment and habilitation services and supports in the least restrictive environment, directed toward the achievement of the most independent, productive, and normal lives possible;
- (2) The right to dignity, privacy, and humane care in natural community settings;
- (3) The right to an appropriate program of publicly supported education, regardless of degree of disability;
- (4) The right to prompt medical care and treatment;
- (5) The right to religious freedom and practice;
- (6) The right to social interaction and participation in community activities;
- (7) The right to physical exercise and recreational opportunities;
- (8) The right to freedom from harm, including unnecessary physical restraint, or isolation, excessive medication, abuse, or neglect;
- (9) The right to freedom from hazardous procedures;
- (10) The right to choose where and with whom to live; relationships; how to spend time, including education, employment, and leisure; pursue one's personal future; and program planning and implementation;
- (11) The right to wear one's own clothes; keep and use one's own personal possessions; and keep and spend one's own money;
- (12) The right to one's own storage space;
- (13) The right to see visitors each day;
- (14) The right to confidential telephone calls;
- (15) The right to letter writing materials and to mail and receive unopened correspondence;
- (16) The right to refuse electroconvulsive therapy;
- (17) The right to refuse behavior modification techniques which cause pain or trauma; and
- (18) The right to refuse psychosurgery solely for the purpose of modification of thoughts, feelings, actions or behavior.

Recognizing that consumers are "vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and deprivations of their rights" (W &I Code § 4433(a)(2)), the legislature also realized that assigning the responsibility of clients' rights advocacy services to the state hospitals, regional centers, or the Office of Clients' Rights created, if not a true conflict of interest, at least the appearance of one (§ 4433(a)(3) & (c)). The legislature, therefore, instructed DDS to contract for clients' rights advocacy services with a nonprofit agency (§ 4433(b)(1)). Subsequently, DDS contracted with Disability Rights California to provide clients' rights advocacy services at the regional centers and with the Organization of Area Boards (later the State Council) to provide those services at the developmental centers and community facilities (§ 4433.5).

### **Clients' Rights Advocacy**

Per W &I Code § 4433(d), the State Council, shall: "(1) Provide clients' rights advocacy services to persons with developmental disabilities who are consumers of regional centers and to individuals who reside in the state developmental centers and hospitals, including ensuring the rights of persons with developmental disabilities, and assisting persons with developmental disabilities in pursuing administrative and legal remedies. (2) Investigate and take action as appropriate and necessary to resolve complaints from or concerning persons with

developmental disabilities residing in licensed health and community care facilities regarding abuse, and unreasonable denial, or punitive withholding, of rights guaranteed under this division. (3) Provide consultation, technical assistance, supervision and training, and support services for clients' rights advocates that were previously the responsibility of the Office of Human Rights. (4) Coordinate the provision of clients' rights advocacy services in consultation with the department, stakeholder organizations, and persons with developmental disabilities and their families representing California's multicultural diversity. (5) Provide at least two self-advocacy trainings for consumers and family members."

More specifically, the Clients' Rights Advocacy Project's contractual duties to residents of developmental centers include:

- (1) Initiating and representing consumers in informal and formal fair hearings;
- (2) Initiating and representing consumers in appeals for generic services;
- (3) Maintaining advocacy referral lists;
- (4) Protecting and asserting the rights of consumers in the denial of rights process;
- (5) Investigating and taking action to resolve complaints from consumers regarding denial of rights;
- (6) Filing requisite incident reports;
- (7) Acting as a resource for consumers and families;
- (8) Initiating action on behalf of consumers who are unable to register a complaint on their own behalf;
- (9) Being accessible to consumers;
- (10) Providing consultation and assistance, as necessary;
- (11) Assisting consumers in obtaining and understanding local procedures;
- (12) Asserting and protecting the rights of consumers entering or changing their dwellings, including requests for release;
- (13) Providing consultation and ongoing training to DC/CF employees; and
- (14) Providing self-advocacy training.

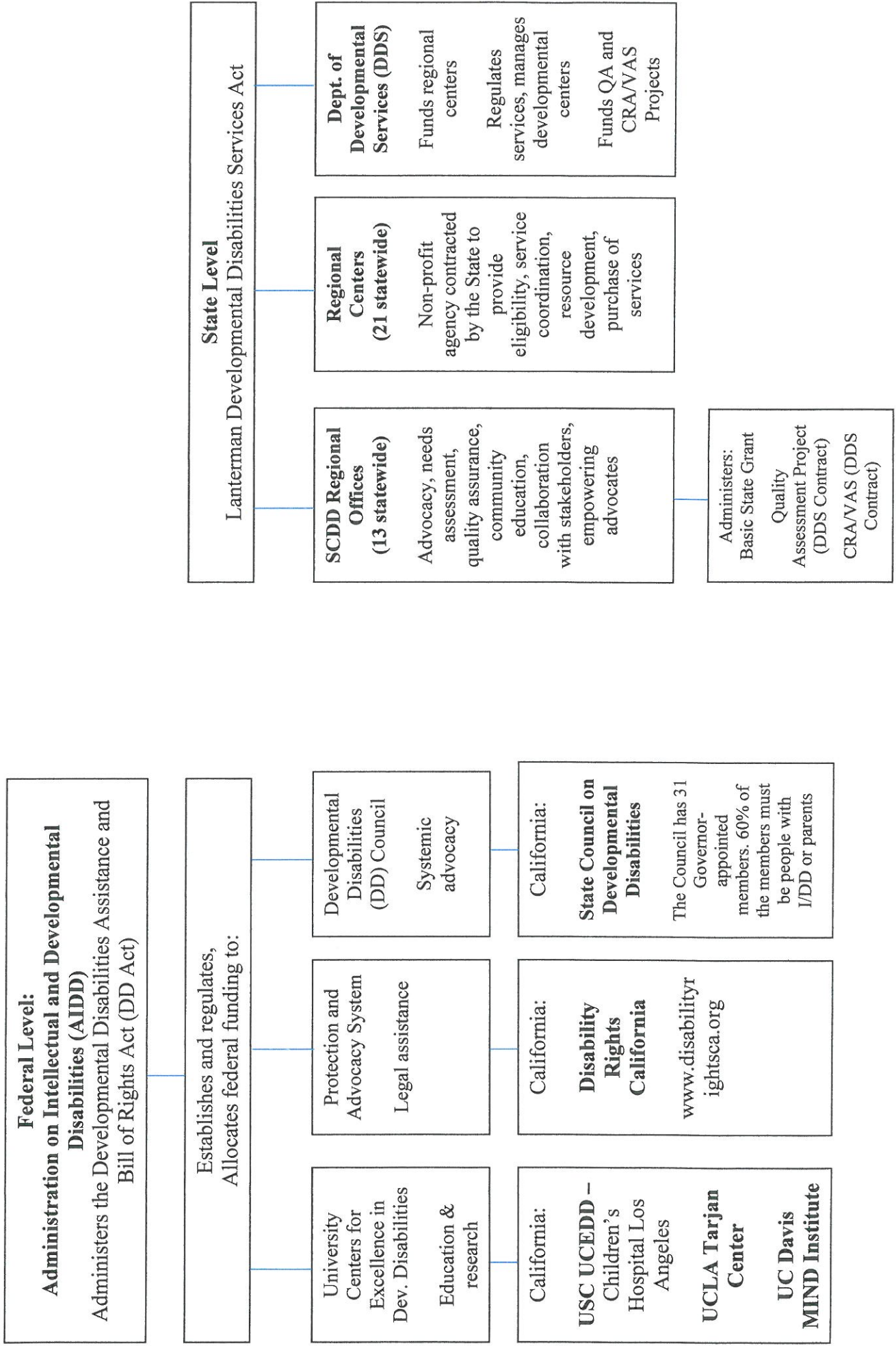
### **Volunteer Advocacy Services**

Per its contract with DDS, the State Council's Voluntary Advocacy Services Project assists consumers living in developmental centers and community facilities who have no legally appointed representatives to assist them in making choices and decisions. The Volunteer Advocacy Services (VAS) Coordinator recruits volunteer advocates to assist consumers (1) at annual and semi-annual individual planning meetings; (2) in making choices and decisions, including transitioning to community living; and (3) referring suspected clients' rights violations to the clients' rights advocate.

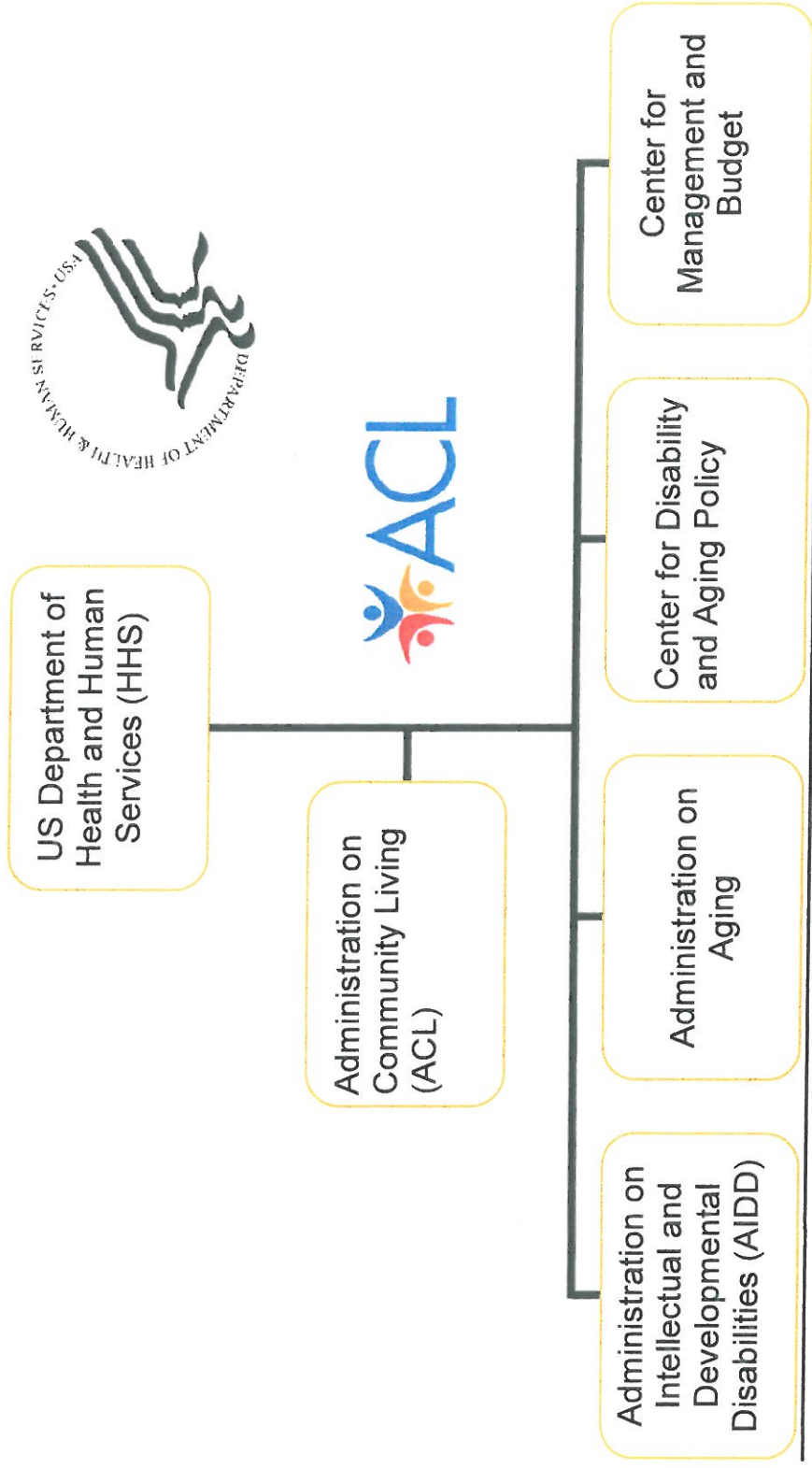
Welfare & Institutions Code § 4541 (a)(1) authorizes the State Council to appoint a representative to assist consumers in "expressing (their) desires and in making decisions and advocating (their) needs, preferences, and choices" when the consumer "has no parent, guardian, or conservator legally authorized to represent him or her and the person has either requested the appointment of a representative or the rights or interests of the person, as determined by the state council, will not be properly protected or advocated without the

appointment of a representative." Where appropriate, the state council "shall appoint a representative to advocate the rights and protect the interests of a person residing in a developmental center for whom community placement is proposed pursuant to Section 4803." (§ 4541 (a)(3)). Advocates who serve as consumer representatives for consumers who transition to the community do so for at least six months following placement, and thereafter at the request of the consumer, the consumer's authorized representative, or the consumer's conservator, or at the discretion of the State Council.

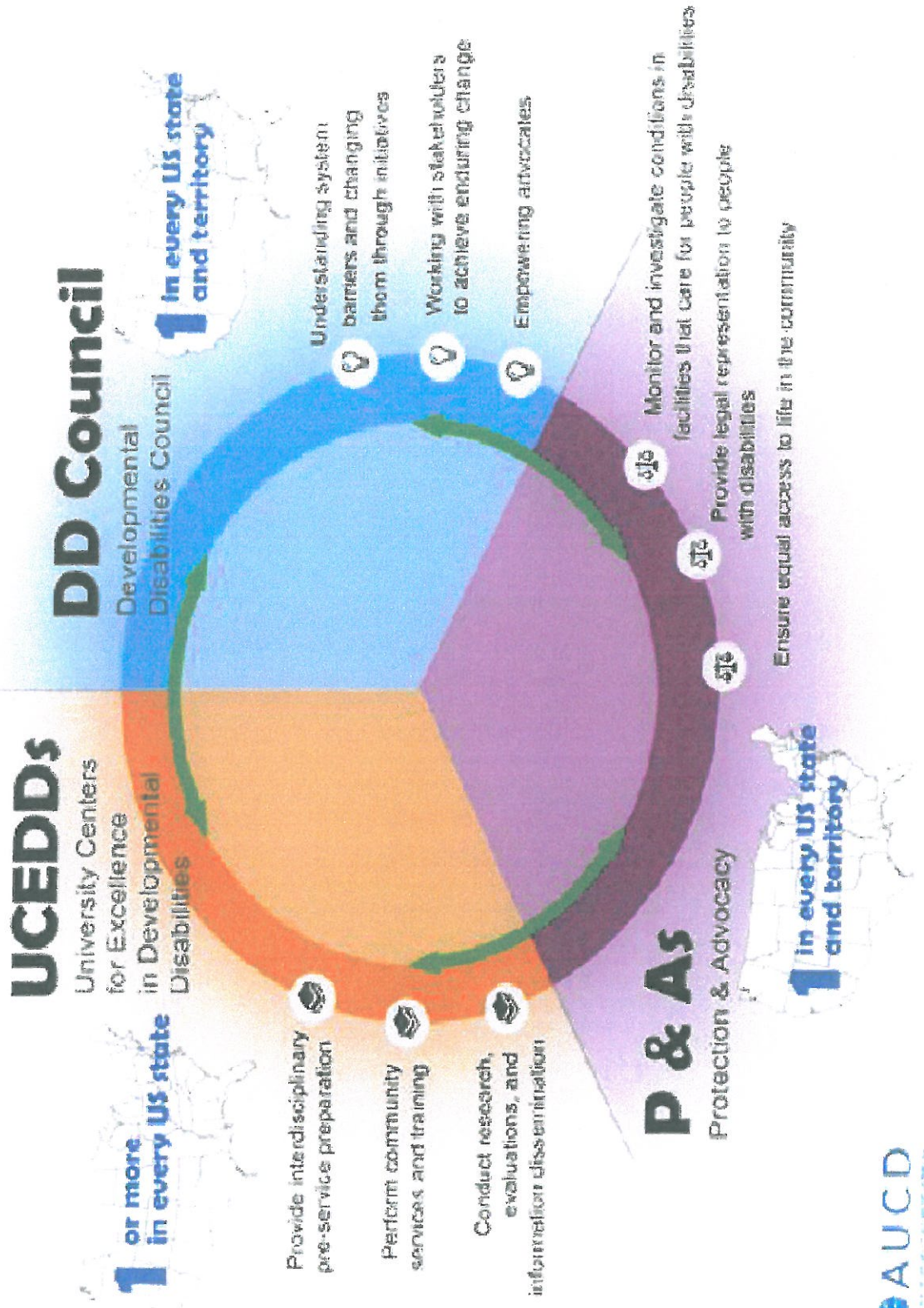
# System Overview: How the State Council and Regional Offices are Set-Up and Funded



# AIDD's place in Federal Government



# DD Act Network Partners: Infographic



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## Why the DD Act Matters

- [History](#)
- [How the DD Act advances a vision of inclusion for all people with disabilities](#)
- [State Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#)
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- [National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service](#)
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### History

In 1963, individuals with developmental disabilities faced exclusion from many spheres of public and private life, including most schools and community spaces. Many spent nearly their entire lives in large, state-run institutions. These institutions were often grossly underfunded and reports of systemic abuse and neglect were common.

It is in this context that what is now known as the [Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act \(DD Act\)](#) was signed into law by President John F. Kennedy.

In the decades since the DD Act was enacted, it has come to represent a fundamentally different vision of what it means to live with a developmental disability. It is a vision rooted in the belief that "disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of United States society."

Learn more about [the history of the DD Act](#).

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### How the DD Act advances a vision of inclusion for all people with disabilities

DD Act programs in every state and territory empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to help shape the policies that impact them. DD Act programs conduct important research and test innovative new service delivery models. They work to bring the latest knowledge and resources to those who can put it to the best use—including self-advocates, families, service providers, and policymakers. And DD Act programs investigate cases of abuse and serve as advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Learn more about the specific programs and initiatives made possible by the DD Act and the difference they have made for individuals with developmental disabilities below.

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### State Councils on Developmental Disabilities

While some DD Act programs provide direct services to individuals, our nation's 56 [State Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(DD Councils\)](#) are designed to take a "big picture" approach to create structural change with a long-term impact.

DD Councils are designed to be operated by and for the developmental disability community, with the DD Act requiring 60 percent of council members be individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members. Every five years, each council takes a comprehensive look at the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in their state or territory and develops a five-year plan of action to promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion.

DD Councils seek to create positive change through advocacy, systems change, and capacity building. They provide training and technical assistance to advocates, families, and service providers. They bring together businesses, service providers, agencies, policy-makers, and community groups to find solutions to persistent problems. They develop and test

innovative new programs and service models. Most importantly, DD Councils bring the voices of individuals with developmental disabilities to the policy-makers whose decisions impact their lives.

#### Here are just a few examples of DD Council projects:

- **Partners in Policymaking** was developed by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities in 1987 to empower people with developmental disabilities and their family members to become leaders and advocates. Since then, more than 21,000 have completed the program across the country and more than 2,000 have participated internationally [Watch one self-advocate describe what the program means to him.](#)
- The **DC Developmental Disabilities Council** is collaborating with local health and community-based stakeholders to incorporate the functional and accessibility needs of DC residents with developmental disabilities in emergency planning.
- Many DD Councils participate in **Project SEARCH**, a program which uses real-life work experience to help youth with disabilities make successful transitions from school to adult life.
- Through its **Real Communities** program, the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities brings people with and without developmental disabilities together in collaborative projects to improve the community. [Watch the program in action.](#)
- **"Navigating Your Way"** is an eight-part video series developed by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council to provide guidance and identify resources for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages and their families.

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## State Protection & Advocacy Systems

**Protection and Advocacy systems (P&As)** were established by the DD Act in 1975 [as the nation was learning about the shocking conditions many people with development disabilities faced at institutions like the Willowbrook State School.](#) In the decades since, Americans with disabilities have successfully fought for new legal and civil rights protections that provide dignity and inclusion.

Yet many with developmental disabilities, particularly those living in institutions, still face unique barriers to accessing the critical protections promised them by law. P&As play an important role in removing these barriers and addressing the shocking rates of abuse, neglect, and violence faced by those with developmental disabilities. Their success in this work has led Congress to create additional programs allowing P&As to serve the entire disability community.

The national network of 57 P&As inform people of their rights, investigate suspected abuse and neglect, and provide free legal representation for clients. P&As have broad legal authority to access records, facilities, and individuals when conducting investigations, placing them in a unique position to detect and address abuse. P&As are also independent of all service providers and at least half of each system's governing board members are people with disabilities. This direct connection with the disability community allows P&As to amplify the voices of the disability community, engage in systems change work, and educate policymakers on the concerns of people with disabilities.

#### Here are just a few examples of the work done by P&As:

- When Matthew W., a 7 year old with cerebral palsy, was told by his local recreations commission that he couldn't play baseball, [his mother called the Disability Rights Center in Kansas who filed a suit on their behalf.](#) In court, Mathew showed that he could hold a baseball bat in one hand and his walker in the other and the judge agreed that he could not be excluded from playing baseball.
- P&As frequently work directly with families navigating the IEP process to ensure students get the services and supports they need to thrive at school. For example, Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. has produced ["Special Education: An Advocate's Manual."](#)
- Many people with disabilities turn to P&As when administrative hurdles prevent them from getting the services and supports they need to remain independent. [Find out how Disability Rights Florida helped Victor after Medicaid denied his request for a wheelchair.](#)
- P&As are able to access all settings in which services are provided to people with disabilities, including prisons. [Find out how Disability Rights Washington's AVID program monitors prisons to ensure inmates with disabilities are treated humanely.](#)
- When veteran Adan Gallegos was forced to leave a local business because he had brought his service dog, Bootz, Disability Rights Texas provided legal representation leading to an eventually settlement out of court. But they didn't stop there, Gallegos and DRTx brought their concerns to the state legislature which passed "Bootz's Bill" clarifying the ADA's guarantees of access for individuals using service animals. At the signing ceremony, Bootz's paw print appeared next the governor's signature.

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## National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service

Found in every state and territory, [University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities \(UCEDDs\)](#) work to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their family members and ensure that voices from this community are heard in the halls of academia.

UCEDDs also take their work off campus. They provide training, technical assistance, and continuing education to hundreds of thousands of professionals and community members. And they develop a vast array of guides, videos, webinars, and reports. Finally, UCEDDs run model diagnostic, clinical, and demonstration programs that serve over 200,000 people with developmental disabilities a year.

While all 68 UCEDDs are interdisciplinary, no two UCEDDs are alike. UCEDDs unite faculty and students from multiple departments and disciplines within universities. Together, they conduct cutting-edge research and bring the latest knowledge to those who can put it to the best use, training the next generation of lawyers, engineers, educators, health professionals, social workers, and social scientists.

Many UCEDDs tailor their programs to take advantage of unique strengths or resources within their university and to address specific concerns in their communities. This has resulted in a network with a great depth of knowledge on a broad range of issues including education, employment, assistive technology, health, housing, and transportation.

### Here are just a few examples of the work being done by UCEDDs:

- Through the University of Maine's Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies' [Interdisciplinary Disability Studies](#) program, undergraduate and graduate students explore disability within the larger context of diversity and examine professional practice, scholarship, and policy.
- The [Early Childhood Program](#) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Waisman Center offers a model supportive learning environment for a developmentally diverse group of children between the ages 1 and 5. The program takes advantage of the Waisman Center's expertise and provides important research and training opportunities for faculty and qualified students. It also serves as a resource for early childhood professionals in the community.
- Since 1972, the Westchester Institute for Human Development has provided services in Valhalla, NY. Mitchell went from receiving services as a child to becoming a self-advocate and WHID staff member as an adult. [Find out how early intervention and speech therapy helped put him on a path to autonomy.](#)
- The MIND Institute at the University of California-Davis has been a national leader in autism research, including work on effective early interventions and studies using virtual reality technology. [Watch lectures from MIND Institute experts.](#)

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## Projects of National Significance

The needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families are always changing; therefore, the programs and policies that can help them thrive are constantly evolving. In addition, the policy solutions of a decade ago may not always account for today's challenges. This is why Projects of National Significance (PNS) are so critical to the success of the DD Act.

The projects focus on the most pressing issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. They also allow AIDD to help fill in gaps identified by the community, as well as quickly address new issues with a national scope.

Projects typically last between one to five years and are funded through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to private or public non-profit organizations. They provide critical data in the area of developmental disabilities, generate and evaluate innovative policies and approaches, and support the work of DD Councils, P&As, and UCEDDs. The projects address many areas including youth transitions, family support, self-advocacy, community living, and supporting traditionally underserved communities.

### Here are just a few examples of the work funded by Projects of National Significance:

- The Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities [is building a national training, technical assistance, and resource center](#) to explore and develop supported decision-making as an alternative option to guardianship.
- [The State of the States in Developmental Disabilities](#) is a comparative nationwide longitudinal study of public programs, funding, and trends in developmental disabilities services and supports. The website includes a "[create a chart](#)" feature allowing the public to analyze and compare data.
- The Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered, and the National Youth Leadership Network worked together to develop a report titled "[Keeping the Promise of Community: Self Advocates Defining the Meaning of Community Living \(PDF\)](#)." The effort ensured that the voices of self-advocates were heard as CMS was seeking comments on a Home and Community Based Settings Rule.

[See a list of current Projects of National Significance.](#)

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## Vision

Californians with developmental disabilities are guaranteed the same full and equal opportunities for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as all Americans.

## Mission

The Council advocates, promotes and implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.

[SCDD Bylaws](#) 

[Plain Language Bylaws](#) 

[State Plan](#) 

## What is the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by federal law ([Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act](#)) and state law ([Lanterman Act at Welfare and Institutions Code, section 4520 et. seq.](#)). SCDD is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the planning, design and receipt of the services and supports they need which promote increased independence, productivity, inclusion and self-determination. Federal law requires SCDD to identify methods to improve and increase services for individuals and their families and to submit these to the federal government in the form of a [State Plan](#). The State Plan is approved by the [federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(AIDD\)](#). AIDD is the funding source for SCDD and its State Plan Activities. SCDD and its regional offices' primary work is achieving the State Plan goals, objectives, and strategies.

The Council is comprised of 31 members appointed by the Governor, including individuals with disabilities, their families, federally funded partners and state agencies.

In addition to headquarters in Sacramento, the Council supports 12 [regional offices](#) that provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families including,

but not limited to, advocacy assistance, training, monitoring and public information. By providing these services, regional offices ensure that appropriate laws, regulations and policies pertaining to the rights of individuals are observed and protected. Each regional office participates in the development and implementation of the Council's goals and objectives.

Councils on Developmental Disabilities are established in each state through the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. This Act also creates state protection and advocacy systems, university centers for excellence, and projects of national significance (see Council Links and Resources page). Each entity has a federally-assigned responsibility designed to improve services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and enhance independence, productivity and inclusion.

## How does the Council define developmental disability?

The federal definition of developmental disabilities covers persons whose disability occurs before age 22 and includes a mental or physical impairment or a combination of both. There must be a substantial limitation in three or more of these major life areas: self-care; expressive or receptive language; learning; mobility; capacity for independent living; economic self-sufficiency; or self-direction.

As a federally mandated and funded agency, one of the Council's functions is to ensure that its programs, projects and activities are available to persons who meet the federal definition of developmental disabilities. This is accomplished through the approved State Plan, as implemented by: Council actions; the Program Development Fund grants that provide start-up funds for innovative and needed services; and the 12 local Regional Offices on Developmental Disabilities through planning and coordination at the local level.

In California law, a developmental disability is more narrowly defined as occurring before the age of 18 and includes specific categories of eligible conditions: intellectual disability, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, and "conditions requiring services similar to those required for persons with intellectual disabilities." California law requires that the individual be substantially handicapped by the disability. In March 2004, new regulations

took effect that define substantial disability as significant functional limitations in three or more of the major life activities contained in the federal definition above.

## How many people in California have a developmental disability?

The May 1, 2023 statewide population, as reported by the [California Department of Finance](#) Demographics Unit, was 38,940,000. By using the Gollay and Associate national prevalence estimate of 1.58 percent, an estimated 615,252 of those Californians met the federal definition of a developmental disability.

To determine the most recent estimates for California or any of its counties, visit the [California Department of Finance \(DOF\)](#) website for updated demographic information. Estimates of individuals who meet the federal definition of developmental disability can be obtained for any population area in California by using the DOF demographic information and multiplying the number by .0158.

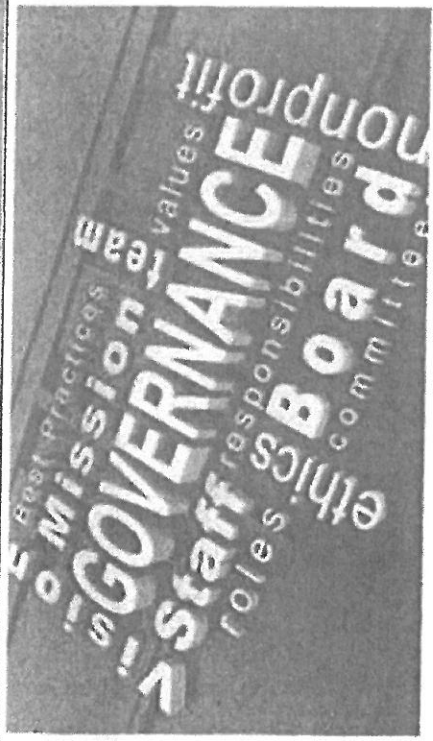
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# SCDD Governance Policy About Council Operations After AB 1595

March 25, 2015

# Changes to the Law

- AB 1595 amended the Lanterman Act
  - SCDD established pursuant to Federal DD Act
  - SCDD to independently exercise its authority to expend federal funding
  - Identifies SCDD activities
  - Changes membership requirements to Council
  - Recasts area board offices as SCDD “regional offices”
  - Recasts Area Boards as SCDD “regional advisory committees”
  - Gives discretion to SCDD for regional offices and regional advisory committees
  - Requires SCDD to appoint an Executive Director; gives ED authority over hiring, supervision of all SCDD personnel

## Prior Council Actions

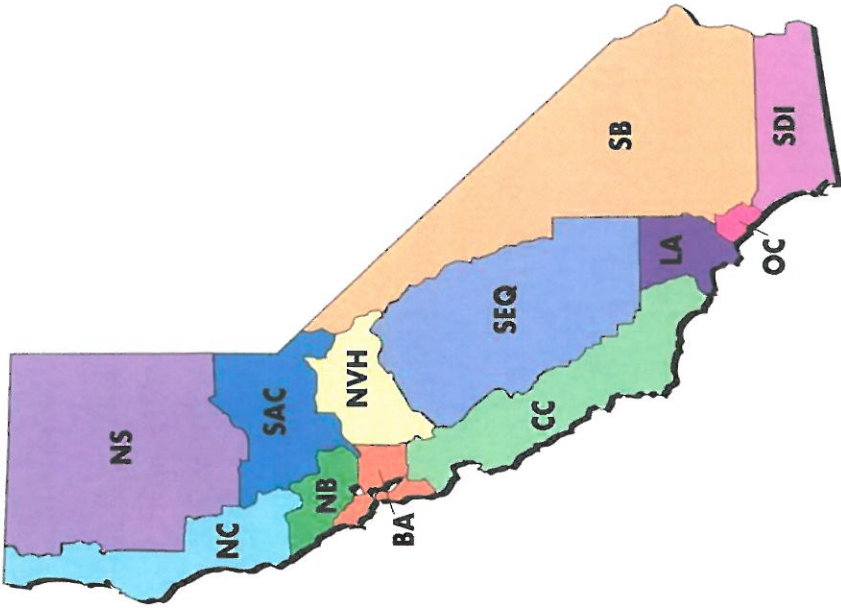
- November 2014, SCDD acted to:
  - Establish regional offices and regional advisory committees
  - To operate according to state law and policies and procedures of the Council

# Proposed Policy: Regional Offices

- SCDD will operate 13 Regional Offices
- Function as satellite offices of and report to SCDD HQ
- Operate according to org authority established by
  - Federal DD Act
  - Lanterman Act
  - CA Civil Service Rules
  - Other applicable federal and state law
- HQ to provide direction and support to Regional Offices consistent with SCDD policies
- Each Regional Office and its staff will carry out the goals of the State Plan to ensure statewide implementation






# Proposed Policy: Regional Advisory Committees

- Each Regional Advisory Committee shall advise the Council, including Regional Offices, as directed by the Council
- Each Regional Advisory Committees shall advise the Council according to the goals of the State Plan and consistent with the Federal DD Act and Lanterman Act
- Regional Office staff support a Regional Advisory Committee as appropriate
- Regional Advisory Committee members may receive reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in connection with performance of their duties consistent with SCDD policies and protocols.



The State Council on Developmental Disabilities is headquartered in Sacramento and has Regional Offices throughout the state. These offices provide advocacy, answer questions, and identify community issues of statewide importance.

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-  [linkedin.com/company/CalSCDD](https://linkedin.com/company/CalSCDD)
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**REGIONAL OFFICES**

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- (NS) North State (Butte, Tehama, Plumas, Lassen, Glenn, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity)**  
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- (NB) North Bay (Napa, Solano, Sonoma)**  
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- (BA) Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo)**  
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- (LA) Los Angeles (Los Angeles)**  
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## WHAT IS THE STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities is created in law with independent authority to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need. SCDD helps people participate in the planning and obtainment of services and supports that promote increased independence, productivity, inclusion, and self-determination.

The Council has 31 members who are appointed by the Governor. These members are self-advocates, family advocates, and representatives of agencies that are part of the service network for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Council carries out its mission through staff and regional offices.

## WHAT DOES THE STATE COUNCIL DO?

SCDD is a guiding force for positive and life-altering change for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

People with disabilities and their families know best what they need. Support is provided through systems advocacy at the state, county, and local levels. We provide training and information on service options, rights and strategies for accessing services.

SCDD looks for innovative ideas to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We provide people with the tools they need to be fully included in their communities and supported to live the life they choose.



## OUR FUNDING SOURCE

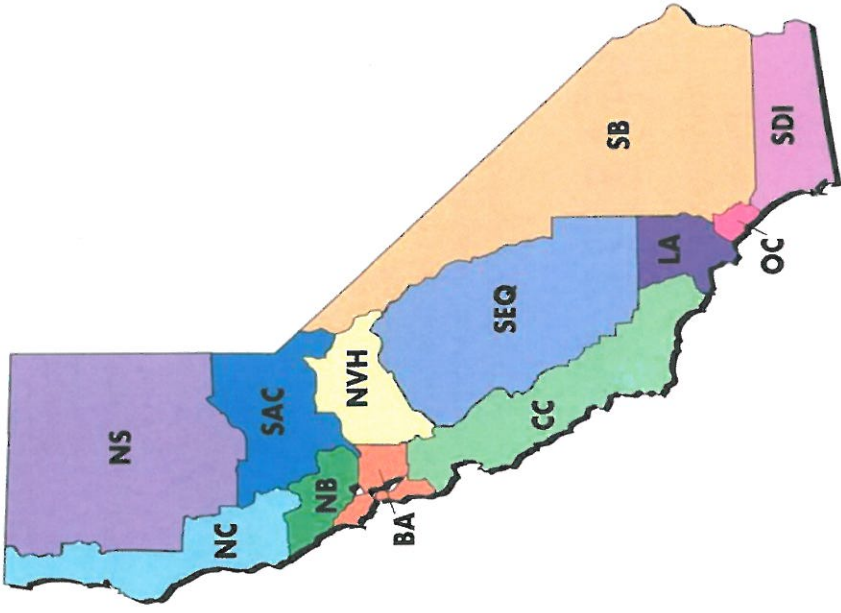
SCDD is supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to freely express their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official ACL policy.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

Advocacy, Systems Change, and Capacity-Building

## WHAT WE DO






- Promote and advocate for policy and legislative changes.
- Support people to advocate for themselves.
- Offer information and training on systems like special education, employment, housing, and regional center services.
- Provide advocacy for people living in state-run facilities.
- Engage the community to build quality inclusion.
- Collect and share data on the implementation of employment first policy.



SCDD tiene su oficina central en Sacramento y tiene Oficinas Regionales en todo el estado. Estas oficinas proveen apoyo, responden preguntas, e identifican problemas comunitarios de importancia estatal.

**SÍGANOS EN NUESTRAS**

**REDES SOCIALES**

-  [facebook.com/CalSCDD](https://facebook.com/CalSCDD)
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## ¿QUÉ ES EL CONCILIO ESTATAL DE DISCAPACIDADES DEL DESARROLLO?

El Concilio Estatal de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (en inglés, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, y por sus siglas, SCDD) es creado por ley con autoridad independiente para ayudar a las personas con discapacidades intelectuales o del desarrollo y a sus familias para recibir servicios y apoyos que necesitan. SCDD ayuda a las personas a participar en la planificación de sus servicios y a obtener los servicios y apoyos que promuevan el aumento de la independencia, productividad, inclusión, y autodeterminación.

SCDD tiene 31 miembros quienes son nombrados por el Gobernador. Estos miembros son auto-defensores, miembros de familia, y representantes de las agencias que son parte de la red de servicios para las personas con discapacidades del desarrollo e intelectuales.

SCDD lleva a cabo su misión a través del personal y oficinas regionales.

## ¿QUÉ HACE SCDD?

SCDD es una fuerza que guía cambios positivos que mejoran la vida de personas con discapacidades del desarrollo e intelectuales.

Las personas con discapacidades y sus familias conocen mejor lo que necesitan. El apoyo se da a través de sistemas de apoyo a nivel estatal, del condado, y local. Proveemos entrenamientos e información sobre las opciones de servicios, sus derechos y estrategias para acceder servicios.

SCDD busca ideas innovadoras para mejorar las vidas de las personas con discapacidades intelectuales y del desarrollo y la de sus familias. Proveemos las herramientas que las personas necesitan para estar totalmente incluidas en sus comunidades y para que tengan el apoyo para vivir la vida que ellos escogan.

## NUESTRA FUENTE DE FONDOS

SCDD recibe apoyo en parte por una beca de la Administración para la Vida Comunitaria (ACL, por sus siglas en inglés) de los Estados Unidos, El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos, Washington, D.C. A los que reciben estos fondos para emprender proyectos con patrocinio del gobierno se les motiva a expresar libremente sus descubrimientos y conclusiones. Los puntos de vista y las opiniones no necesariamente representan la opinión política oficial de ACL.

## ÁREAS DE ENFOQUE

Abogacía, Cambio Sistemico, y Desarrollo de Capacidades

## ¿QUÉ HACEMOS?

- Promover y defender los cambios políticos y legislativos.
- Apoyar a las personas para que aboguen por sí mismas.
- Ofrecer información y entrenamiento sobre sistemas como educación especial, empleo, vivienda, y servicios de centro regional.
- Proveer apoyo a personas viviendo en centros estatales.
- Involucrar a la comunidad para construir inclusión de calidad.
- Colectar y compartir datos sobre la implementación de la póliza de empleo primero.

