



REGIONAL CENTER FACT SHEET

What are regional centers?

Regional centers are the first stop for persons with developmental disabilities and their families seeking local supports and services. The centers are private, non-profit corporations operating under contract with the State of California, through the Department of Developmental Services.

What is a developmental disability?

A developmental disability is a severe mental or physical impairment beginning before the 18th birthday and expected to continue indefinitely. Examples include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism.

Who is eligible for regional center services?

Someone is eligible for services if he or she has a developmental disability; is experiencing or is at risk for developmental delay/disability; or is at high risk of parenting a disabled infant.

Where are regional centers located?

California has twenty-one regional centers that serve all 58 counties.

How many Californians receive regional center services?

Regional centers serve approximately 200,000 Californians who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability.

What services do regional centers provide or coordinate?

Information and referral	Early intervention services	Adult day programs
Assessment and diagnosis	Genetic counseling	Residential care
Service coordination	Crisis and behavioral intervention	Transportation
Advocacy	Support groups	Training and education

How much do clients pay for regional center services?

There is no charge for diagnosis and assessment for eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, most services are free regardless of age or income.