



San Gabriel / Pomona  
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## Developmental Disabilities Fact Sheet

### BACKGROUND

The California State Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Regional Center system were established in 1965 through the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act. As of January 2022, over 400,000 persons with developmental disabilities were being served through Regional Centers throughout the state. Regional Centers serve persons with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and other similar conditions. These conditions are substantially handicapping and occur prior to the age of eighteen (18).

### INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY:

A particular state of functioning that begins in childhood and is characterized by limitations in both intelligence and adaptive skills. Individuals may have mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disability. With training and supports, individuals with intellectual disabilities can increase their level of independence in daily living tasks.

### EPILEPSY:

A symptom of a disorder of the brain. Epilepsy can be caused by any number of conditions that injure or affect the functioning of the brain. Epilepsy can affect people of all ages at different stages of their lives. Epilepsy has many forms, ranging from generalized seizures (Grand Mal Seizures) to momentary lapses of attention (Petit Mal Seizures), or brief periods of altered behaviors (Psychomotor Seizures).

### AUTISM:

A disorder characterized by certain behavior and communication patterns with symptoms that can range from mild to severe. People with autism have difficulty with communicating, socializing, and processing information. Autism is usually associated with rigid and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following specific routines.

### CEREBRAL PALSY:

A term describing a group of conditions characterized by difficulty in muscular control and coordination. Sometimes cerebral palsy shows itself only by a slight awkwardness of gait; more often there has been a severe loss of muscular control in several areas of the body. Although some people with cerebral palsy also have intellectual disability, most have normal intelligence.

### PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY

If a child who is three or four years of age is not eligible for regional center services due to not meeting the definition of a developmental disability, they may be considered for provisional eligibility. A child is provisionally eligible for regional center services if the child has a disability that is not solely physical in nature and significant functional limitations in at least two of the following areas of major life activity, as determined by a regional center and as appropriate to the age of the child such as: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility or self-direction.