

Orientation Deadline Extended

DDS advised the community recently that people selected on October 1, 2018 to participate in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) must complete an orientation by November 15, 2019. However, that date has been extended to December 6, 2019.

Individuals who do not complete an orientation by December 6, 2019 will not be able to continue in SDP at this time, unless there are special circumstances that prevent completion of an orientation. Those who do not complete an orientation may choose to be considered for selection or enroll in the future.

Please send any questions to SDP@dds.ca.gov.



History, Leadership, & Self-Advocacy

Maria Marquez knows Self-Determination from many perspectives. She was in the pilot program when it began in 1998, has worked for Regional Center, is a self-advocate, and currently serves as the chair of the SDP Statewide Advisory Committee. "I was so happy to be in the pilot 20 years ago. I got a good understanding on how it worked and how I could move my money around as things changed in my life. My Service Coordinator, she supported me so I was able to pick my own services and (set them up) how I wanted to design them." Maria emphasized, "it really took time, it was new and different." She has some advice for other self advocates. "Get all the information. If you need to go to an orientation more than once that's okay. Sometimes you really need to go to trainings not just once but three or four times to really understand. Ask for that support to help and be honest if you don't understand big words. Regional Centers, providers, parents also need be able to say 'If what I am is saying doesn't make sense, you can stop me and ask me to say it in a simpler way.' We just have to work together." View the DDS Consumer Corner plain language SDP website page at:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/sdp.cfm>

Question of the Day

Q. Where can I get a list of Independent Facilitators?

A. There is no central list of Independent Facilitators. Each regional center and their Local Advisory Committee should be exploring how best to develop and share Independent Facilitator resource information that meets the needs of their communities. Keep in mind that a participant may choose a person they know to serve as an Independent Facilitator, as long as they meet the criteria in the guidance document posted on the DDS website at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/SDP/docs/sdpIndependentFacilitator.pdf> Community based organizations and the local State Council offices are conducting Independent Facilitator training sessions across the state. Checking with those organizations regarding connecting with individuals who attended their training sessions may be one way to obtain a list of individuals who are trained to be facilitators.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SELF-DETERMINATION?

- ◆ Visit the Self-Determination Page of the DDS website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/SDP/>
- ◆ Attend a Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting
- ◆ Contact your Regional Center or Local State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Regional Office
- ◆ SCDD hosts a SDP Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CA.SDP.Forum/>