

Background Checks Update

Background checks are required in certain situations in the Self-Determination Program (SDP). People who provide direct personal care services (assistance with dressing, grooming, bathing or personal hygiene services) and any other provider of services for whom a criminal background check is requested by a participant or the participant's financial management service are required to obtain a criminal background check. During this initial implementation phase, SDP participants are working with their providers, Financial Management Services agencies, and DDS to ensure those background checks are completed. Planning for participation in SDP should include the fact that time has to be allowed for this process.

On November 4, 2019, DDS released a directive providing information regarding background checks. This directive replaces the DDS September 24, 2015 directive about background checks. The November 4 correspondence now states "a full criminal history must be obtained from the Department of Justice and, if applicable, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)... information from the FBI must be obtained for individuals who have not resided continuously in California for the last two years."

Read the full directive on the DDS website at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/SDP/index.cfm>. If you have questions regarding the criminal background check requirements, you can email sdpbackground@dds.ca.gov.



"You are the boss"

Tim Jin will be participating in SDP soon. He shared his thoughts ...

"When I get into SDP, my budget is going to be catered around me, and not someone else. For example, maybe I would like to use different forms of transportation, other than OCTA Access. There is a taxi service in Orange County has a fleet of accessible vans. Maybe I can allocate a portion of my budget to better transportation to get me back home at a reasonable time from my job, instead spending more than an hour, touring the county because the bus driver is picking up multiple passengers. I am looking forward to coming with a plan that makes things convenient that others take for granted. Like small things, such as transportation." To others, Tim advises, "Don't give up...people that don't know me, think that I have a lot of barriers. I was just in my neighborhood Costco the other day, shopping, and some random person with their cart went by and looked at me and said 'Poor Thing.' I wanted to tell her that I wasn't POOR, but I kept on shopping...little comments become barriers over time and will either (help you) have a stronger voice in society or will make you insecure. I vote for the first. There are going to be a lot of barriers in Self-Determination, but you need to remember that you are the boss..."

Question of the Day

- Q. DDS releases "directives" about SDP, what is a directive?
- A. A directive is a written explanation to the Regional Centers that provides guidance on a specific aspect, process, or role in SDP. Directives are intended to help all Regional Center communities understand and implement the SDP program as intended in statute. View all the SDP directives at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/SDP/index.cfm>.

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/>