

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: June 30, 2020**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO HOME AND COMMUNITY
BASED SERVICES (HCBS) 1915i STATE PLAN FOR THE
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED**
(<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/hcbs/>)

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 20-0032 proposes to add Intensive Transition Services as a new service and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants as a new provider type under Speech, Language and Hearing Services.

Pursuant to the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act), Welfare & Institutions (W&I) Code section 4500 *et seq.*, people with developmental disabilities, as defined in W&I Code section 4512(a), receive, as an entitlement, services and supports based on their individual needs and choices. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is responsible for administering the Lanterman Act.

The purpose of this SPA is to add:

- Intensive Transition Services (ITS): A crisis service that provides individuals with the most complex challenges support in the transition from an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) to a less restrictive living option. This service provides a team that will work in a person-centered approach to create a network of resources that will eventually allow the individual to live as independently as possible in the community or less restrictive setting possible. ITS team members operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays, and are available in the event of a crisis. Services shall not exceed 24 months.

The addition of this service will require a new rate methodology, which will include the salaries, wages, payroll taxes, and benefits of direct care staff providing services and supports, in addition to travel and operating costs needed to support a consumer during times of transition out of an IMD.

- Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA): A new provider type under Speech, Language and Hearing Services. SLPAs operate under the supervision of a Speech and Language Pathologist. Speech, Language and Hearing services and providers under that service receive the Statewide Maximum Allowance (SMA) rate according to the DHCS fee schedule.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for this amendment will increase by \$83,577 in federal funds for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019-20 and \$367,053 in federal funds for FFY 2020-21.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is July 1, 2020. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #20-0032 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/PendingStatePlanAmendments.aspx>.
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/hcbs/>

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA #20-0032 using the mailing or email addresses listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Developmental Services
Community Services Division
Attn: Elena Serrano
1600 Ninth Street, M/S 3-8
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA #20-0032 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #20-0032 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.