

# SELF-ADVOCATE & FAMILY MEMBER INFORMATIONAL EVENT

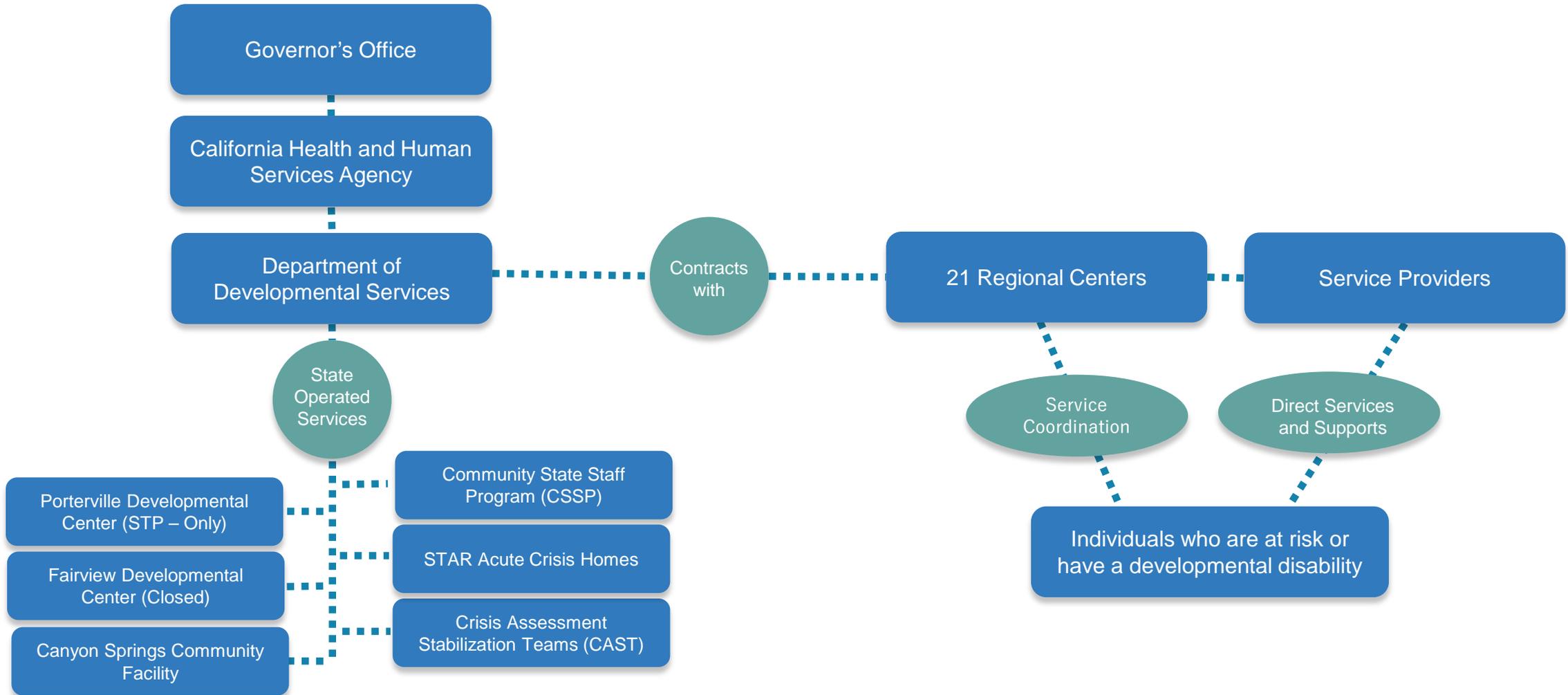
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HOSTED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

NOVEMBER 7, 2020

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

# Developmental Services System



# Additional System Partners

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## Self-Advocate & Family Groups

- Consumer Advisory Committee
- People First Groups
- Family and Parent Support Groups

## Other Community Partners

- Family Resource Centers
- Service Access & Equity Grantees
- Community-specific organizations
- Trusted community partners
- Non-Profit Organizations

## Advocacy

- OCRA contract
- Disability Rights CA
- Provider Organizations

## University Centers (UCEDDs)

- MIND Institute at UC Davis
- Tarjan Center at UCLA
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles at USC

## State Partners

- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Rehabilitation
- Department of Aging
- Department of Education
- Department of Health Care Services

# Roles in the Developmental Services System

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## DDS

- Leadership & policy direction
- Oversee coordination & accountability for delivery of services
- Operate State-run facilities & programs
- Contract with 21 California regional centers

## Regional Centers

- Assessment & eligibility
- Service coordination
- Services as directed by the Individual Program Plan (IPP)
- Oversight of services/providers
- Work with individuals & families
- Implement State & Federal policies

# COVID-19 Response

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LESSONS  
LEARNED

SAFETY

FLEXIBILITY

ALTERNATIVE  
SERVICES

COMMUNICATION

DATA &  
EVALUATION

# Initiatives for Self-Advocates & Families

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## Participant Directed Services – Expansion

- Personal assistance
- Independent living skills
- Supported employment services

## Waiving In-Person Orientation – Self Determination

## PPE Distribution

- Utilize our system of partners

## Tele-Service

- Confirmation letters
- Equipment and Access

## Department Engagement

- Conference Calls and Townhall Meetings
- Dedicated email
- Enhanced Website
- Statewide survey (*coming soon*)



## Participant-Directed Services

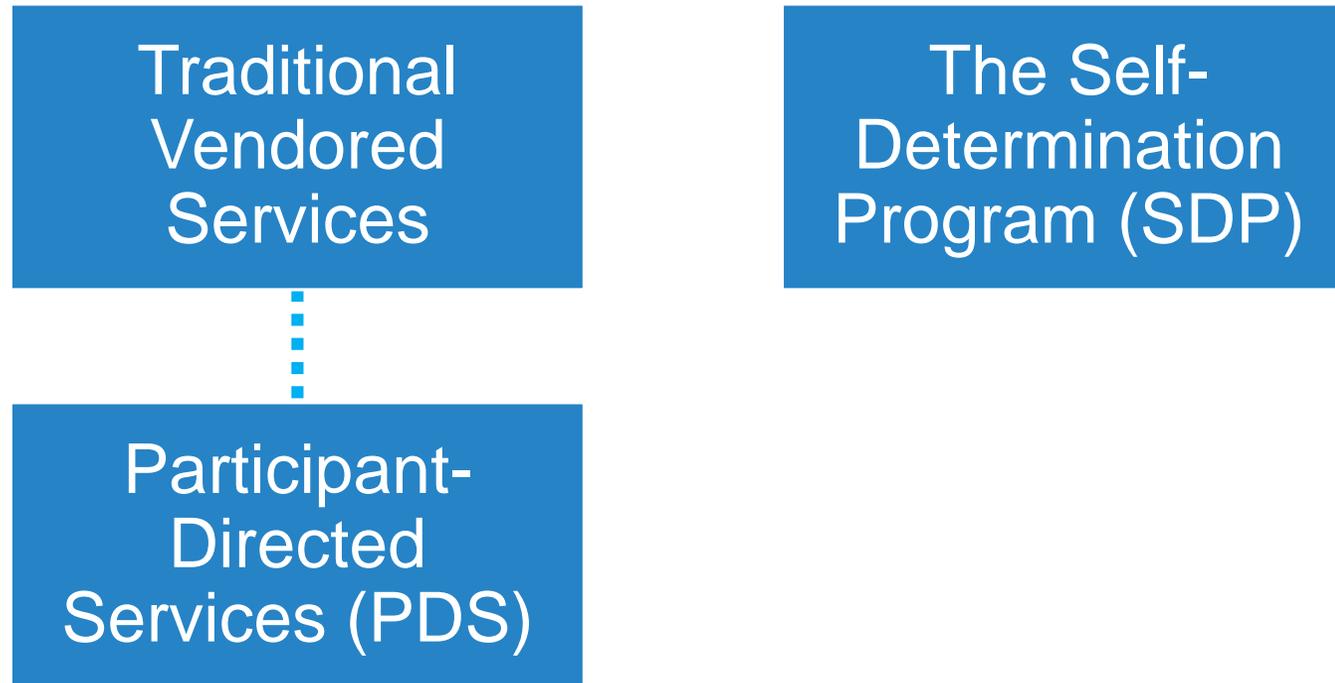
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*Participant-Directed Services offer flexibility to support consumers and their families*

# How to Get Regional Center Services

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All of these options are based on the Lanterman Act values of choice, individual decision-making through an Individual Program Plan (IPP) and promoting independence and community inclusion.



# Participant-Directed Services & Self-Determination Program

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## Participant-Directed Services

- An option at all regional centers for day care, non-medical transportation, nursing, and Community-based training services prior to COVID-19
- During COVID-19 personal assistance, independent living skills and supported employment services were added
- Other services continue to be provided through vendored service providers
- You choose who to hire, schedule when the person works and supervise their work
- Workers can be some family members, friends or other individuals
- You work with a vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) agency to hire and pay staff and comply with employment laws
- Regional center pays the FMS fee

## Self-Determination Program

- An option at all regional centers but limited to those selected to participate until June 2021
- All of your IPP services are included
- Your IPP team develops an individual budget which you can use to purchase needed services and supports
- Services can be purchased from service providers, individuals, or businesses and do not need to be vendored
- You can purchase camping and social recreation services that others cannot access
- You must use a vendored FMS to help manage your budget, hire and pay staff, and comply with employment laws
- You pay the FMS fee from your budget



# Keiana's Services

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San Diego Regional Center

# *Why choose Participant-Directed Services?*

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Gives more control over how and by whom some IPP services are provided

Allows the individual or family choose who to hire, schedule when the person works, and supervise the work

Option to minimize risk to COVID-19

# How might Participant-Directed Services help me?

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Sometimes consumers or families have a hard time finding providers during the hours they need services

For some consumers and families, it may be hard to find providers who speak their preferred language



During COVID-19, a consumer or family may want services from a familiar person as a safety measure

# *Which IPP Services can be provided through Participant-Directed Services?*

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Ongoing participant-directed services are:

- Respite
- Day care
- Non-medical transportation
- Nursing
- Community-based training services

Temporary expanded services during COVID-19 are:

- Personal assistance
- Independent living skills
- Supported employment services

## *What happens to my services that are not provided through Participant-Directed Services?*

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Only the services listed can be provided through Participant-Directed Services

All other services specified in your IPP will continue to be provided by regional center vendors

*Can I use a respite agency while still directing my service – like choosing and scheduling respite workers?*

Yes, in this situation the respite agency is acting as what is often called the “employer of record” and you could still choose your respite workers

If the same respite worker works more than 40 hours a week, whether for one consumer or a combination of consumers served by the same agency, they are entitled to overtime payment

If you are concerned about overtime or have questions, talk with your respite agency and regional center about options like hiring additional workers or using more agency services

# *Who can I hire to provide Participant-Directed Services?*

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## Who can I hire?

- Some family members, friends or another qualified person
- The individual does not need to be a regional center vendor

## Worker qualifications include:

- Must have the skills to perform the work, verified by you and your FMS agency
- The person is 18 years old or older
- The person is eligible to work

# *How does the worker get paid?*

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The FMS pays the worker after you have approved the worker's timesheet

The FMS will also pay all required payroll taxes

Your regional center or the FMS can tell you the allowed hourly rates – you cannot go above these rates

# *What steps should I take if I want to use Participant-Directed Services?*

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**Contact your Service Coordinator**



**Identify a FMS agency**



**Identify Who To Hire**

# Where can I find more information?

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1. [DDS Issued Directive about Participant-Directed Services during COVID-19](#)
  - *Important information from DDS to regional centers on how to provide Participant-Directed Services to you during COVID-19*
2. [Frequently Asked Questions about Participant-Directed Services](#)
  - *Answers your questions about your choices of services and flexibility during COVID-19*
  - *Includes types and definitions of available Participant-Directed Services*
3. [Family Engagement Guide for questions about services needed during COVID-19](#)
  - *A tool that you can use to discuss what you need with service providers and your regional center. This guide helps you know what questions to think about, what are your service needs, flexibility and innovation of services while maintaining safety and how to make choices that are best for you during COVID-19.*

Additional questions can be sent to [DDSC19@dds.ca.gov](mailto:DDSC19@dds.ca.gov)

*Documents are available in additional languages on the DDS website*

# DDS Wants to Hear from You

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SURVEY COMING SOON AT [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov)