

SELF-DETERMINATION

Summer 2021 Edition



Welcome Home!

Meet Leah! Leah is one of our first Self-Determination Program participants. She has been an active participant in the SDP program for about two years now! Leah will soon be working on her third-year budget. Her first year's budget focused on socialization, health supports, and starting to move toward independent living. Her second year's budget, was a little different because she moved into a small mobile home and began living independently. Unfortunately, her landlord wanted to sell the property and Leah found herself having to move. Leah's IPP team got together to assess the changes in her needs and circumstances.

Luckily, Leah had done so well with independent living in her mobile home that her parents decided to buy her a small condo in Chico. Leah's parents want her to be fully independent when they can no longer be involved in her life.



The pictures with this article show how happy Leah was at her "home reveal" party. Leah was thrilled to move in and has been wanting her own place for the last 5-6 years. She kept asking, "This is mine; this is really mine?" Her parents have helped a lot and really focused on making sure all the supports Leah needs are in place. They looked at SLS, licensed care, and Adult Family Homes to make sure she would have everything she needed. Her IPP team is also excited that Leah has her own home.

Tina Harshman, Leah's mother, has developed a website called [Jenny's Helpers](#) to act as a "one stop shop" where people providing supports to folks in SDP can share helpful information about all things SDP. On the website she tells you all about a special program they used to purchase Leah's condo. Additionally, Tina recently agreed to do independent facilitation for other SDP participants. Leah has excellent support staff recruited and trained by her mom. We're so glad Leah and her mom are willing to help other people access SDP.

Eligibility

Q. I was not part of the SDP selection, when can I enroll in the SDP?

A. The most recent law signed by the Governor made the SDP open to all eligible consumers starting on July 1, 2021. So if you are interested in enrolling, you can start now! More information can be found [here](#).

What's New with SDP?

In July 2021, Governor Newsom signed legislation that made several updates and changes to the Self-Determination Program statute (laws). Some of these changes include:

- Starting on July 1, 2021, SDP is now available to all eligible regional center consumers who choose to participate.
- DDS will establish an independent SDP Ombudsperson Office for the purpose of helping regional center clients and SDP consumers and their families successfully participate in the program
- Implementation funds (that is, savings from the SDP pilot program) can be used to meet the needs of participants, increase equity, reduce disparities and continue support for the Statewide Self Determination Advisory Commission
- Statewide SDP Orientation will be provided for consumers and their families
- A definition for "spending plan" is now included in statute -- and moving forward, a copy of a person's spending plan must be attached to their IPP.

New SDP Guidance

Guidance has been sent to all regional center executive directors and is posted on the DDS website under the [Program Directives tab](#). The guidance documents are available in multiple languages at this link.

The new guidance released by the Department of Developmental Services includes the [Self-Determination: Statewide Availability](#) which explains that SDP is available to all eligible regional center consumers on a voluntary basis starting on July 1, 2021.

The second guidance document, [Self-Determination Program: Consumer Supports for Transitioning into the Program](#) explains available supports for participants who are in the process of enrolling into the SDP.



For More Information on Self-Determination:

- Review the [FAQs](#) on the DDS website
- Visit the new and improved [Self-Determination Page](#) on the DDS website
- Attend a Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (LVAC) Meeting
- Contact your Regional Center or local State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Regional Office
- Visit the [SDP Facebook Page](#) hosted by SCDD

