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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

November 17, 2023

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FUNDING TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM

In accordance with Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4685.8(f), funds have been allocated to regional centers to support implementation of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) for fiscal year 2023-24. The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance on the use of these funds, including required collaboration with local volunteer advisory committees (LVAC) in determining local priorities for the funding.

W&I Code section 4685.8(f) specifies these funds shall be used to maximize the ability of SDP participants to direct their own lives and to ensure the department and regional centers successfully implement the program. The statute further requires that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in consultation with community engagement groups, including a statewide self-determination advisory workgroup, shall prioritize the use of the funds to meet the need of participants, increase service access and equity, and reduce disparities, and to implement the program, including costs associated with all the following:

- Recruitment and training of person-centered planning and Self-Directed (SD) Supports providers and independent facilitators with a focus on increasing the number of bilingual, bicultural providers;
- Joint training for participants, families, regional centers, LVAC members and others with a focus on training self-advocates and families from diverse communities that are under-represented in the SDP;
- Assistance with spending plan development; and,
- Collaborative groups/workshops to foster ongoing, shared learning and problem-solving opportunities.

DDS will provide funding separately to the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee, which plays a key role in providing advice and guidance on successful implementation of the SDP.

Regional Center Executive Directors
November 17, 2023
Page two

The LVACs play an important role in the implementation and oversight of the SDP. Therefore, regional centers and LVACs must work collaboratively to prioritize the use of available funds to meet the needs of participants in their local area. Funds may only be expended after agreement is reached on local needs. See Enclosure A for more information on potential uses of the funds, the amount of funding available in each regional center area for fiscal year 2023-24, and suggested steps to determine the use of the funds.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact sdp@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

VICKI L. SMITH, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Policy and Program Development Division

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Nancy Bargmann, Department of Developmental Services
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services
Suzy Requarth, Department of Developmental Services
Kathleen Dempsey, Department of Developmental Services

Enclosure A

Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program (SDP)

As noted in the letter accompanying this enclosure, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code 4685.8(f), funding is available to support implementation of the SDP. The potential uses of these funds, the process to make this determination and use these funds and regional center reporting are described below.

Step	Description
<p>Priority Areas for Funding Use</p>	<p>Priority areas for the funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment/Training of Person-Centered Planning and SD Support Providers and Independent Facilitators – Costs associated with increasing the number of available person-centered planning and SD Support providers and Independent Facilitators, with a focus on those who are bi-/multi-lingual and bi-/multi-cultural. This could include, but is not limited to, recruitment, development and/or provision of training, translation/interpreters, costs related to the provision of training, etc. • Collaborative Groups/Workshops – Ongoing and/or periodic meetings for participants and families, providers, etc., to provide learning and problem-solving opportunities. Costs could include, but are not limited to, speakers/presenters’ travel expenses, translation/interpreters, materials, meeting space expenses, etc. This may involve coordinating with LVACs/participants in other areas to increase the scope of the learning opportunities/information sharing. • Joint Training – Training for participants, families, regional center staff and members of local volunteer advisory committees, etc., with a focus on training for self-advocates and family members from diverse communities that are underserved in the self-determination program. Joint trainings should focus on shared learning opportunities that increase the collective understanding of all involved with SDP. Costs could include, but are not limited to, development and/or provision of training, translation/interpreters, costs related to the provision of training, etc. • Support/Coaching for Transition to SDP – Support for participants in transitioning to SDP. This could include support in areas such as deciding which financial management service model is the best fit for a participant, suggestions for recruiting/hiring employees, how to establish backup staffing plans, etc. • Initial Spending Plan Development – Support in developing the participant’s use of their individual budget through their spending plan, which may include consultation with a financial

Enclosure A

	<p>management service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Identified Needs – Items/activities which will support the needs of participants and implementation of the program.
<p>Determine How Funds Should be Used</p>	<p>The LVAC and the regional center should jointly assess local needs in the implementation of the SDP to determine the best use of the available funds. Based on this joint assessment, a listing should be developed of the priority areas (above) that will be funded, including the estimated amount to be used for each area selected. A detailed, itemized estimate for each identified area is not required at this point. However, discussion of some of these detailed costs may help inform the estimate.</p> <p>Once agreement has been made on the use of the funds, the LVAC and regional center must jointly report the following to sdp@dds.ca.gov:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing of priority areas to be funded; • Estimated amounts of funding allocated to each priority area; and, • Brief description of how decisions were made. <p>Changes can be made on an ongoing basis as the needs of participants change. However, the use of the funds must continue to remain in alignment with statute and this guidance, and decisions on any changes must be made collaboratively by the LVAC and regional center.</p>
<p>Flow of Funds</p>	<p>The funding amounts identified on the following page have been allocated to each regional center. As noted previously, decisions on the use of these funds must be made jointly by the LVAC and regional center. Subsequently, regional centers will reimburse individuals/organizations for providing the services.</p>
<p>Monitoring</p>	<p>Regional centers must complete a status report for each current project within an open FY (FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23) by January 31, 2024. Ongoing reporting should be completed once every six months for each project in an open FY. Such reports are due within 30 days following the end date of the six-month reporting period. The Department will send reminders when reports are due, and the link to the reporting platform will be sent to regional centers via email within two weeks of this guidance.</p>

Enclosure A

Base funding was equally allocated among the regional centers with the remaining funds allocated based on the share of active consumers (status 2) that are non-white at each regional center.

SDP Participant Support Funding - Fiscal Year 2023/2024 *

Regional Center	Base Funding	Share of Funding of active Consumers that self-identify as non-white **	Available Funding
ACRC	\$47,620	\$60,664.74	\$108,284.74
CVRC	\$47,620	\$68,868.43	\$116,488.43
ELARC	\$47,620	\$44,737.94	\$92,357.94
FDLRC	\$47,620	\$29,371.16	\$76,991.16
FNRC	\$47,620	\$9,148.19	\$56,768.19
GGRC	\$47,620	\$24,941.25	\$72,561.25
HRC	\$47,620	\$50,496.83	\$98,116.83
IRC	\$47,620	\$121,734.85	\$169,354.85
KRC	\$47,620	\$31,907.91	\$79,527.91
NBRC	\$47,620	\$20,239.69	\$67,859.69
NLACRC	\$47,620	\$82,492.51	\$130,112.51
RCEB	\$47,620	\$65,520.92	\$113,140.92
RCOC	\$47,620	\$58,211.57	\$105,831.57
RCRC	\$47,620	\$5,048.43	\$52,668.43
SARC	\$47,620	\$48,010.23	\$95,630.23
SCLARC	\$47,620	\$68,730.52	\$116,350.52
SDRC	\$47,620	\$98,319.00	\$145,939.00
SGPRC	\$47,620	\$45,331.39	\$92,951.39
TCRC	\$47,620	\$34,611.83	\$82,231.83
VMRC	\$47,620	\$43,363.00	\$90,983.00
WRC	\$47,620	\$28,238.61	\$75,858.61
TOTAL	\$1,000,020	\$1,039,989	\$2,040,009

* Funds must be expended by March 2026.

** The source of this information is the **Client Master File**, the primary source for case status information of persons who have applied for services funded by the Department as well as those actively being served for June 2023.