



NANCY BARGMANN
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Developmental Services
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.dds.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

February 8, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT FOR EARLY START PROVIDER
TRAINING – ADDITIONAL TRAININGS ELIGIBLE FOR
REIMBURSEMENT

In correspondence dated [January 30, 2023](#) and [October 13, 2023](#), the Department of Developmental Services notified regional centers regarding the availability of funds to reimburse providers for trainings, and the time period to spend the funds. The purpose of this letter is to notify regional centers of the expansion of permissible training topics and the updated timeline to submit training requests for the Early Start Provider Training initiative, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

Permissible training topics have been expanded to include the following:

- Family engagement practices in early intervention; and
- Coursework for Associate of Science degrees and licensure for Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

While the cost for training fees and/or staff time to attend training are reimbursable; staff time toward completing coursework for the Associate of Science degrees is not reimbursable.

The Department is requesting that regional centers disseminate information about this funding opportunity to their Early Start vendor community. If there are any questions regarding this correspondence, please e-mail earlystart@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

MARICRIS ACON
Deputy Director
Children, Adolescents, and Young Adult Services Division

Regional Center Executive Directors
February 8, 2024
Page two

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Nancy Bargmann, Department of Developmental Services
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services
Erin Paulsen Brady, Department of Developmental Services
Reyna Ambriz, Department of Developmental Services