

# Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention Meeting

October 18, 2024



# Housekeeping



Interpretación en español haga clic en el globo blanco en la parte inferior de la pantalla con la etiqueta "Interpretation." Luego haga clic en "Spanish" y seleccione "Mute original audio."



ASL interpreters have been "Spotlighted" and live closed captioning is active.



This meeting is being recorded.



Materials are available at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/state-icc-on-early-intervention-overview/>.



Submit written comments via email to: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov).

# Housekeeping – Interpretation Services

## **ASL INTERPRETERS**

ASL interpreters will be spotlighted during the meeting.

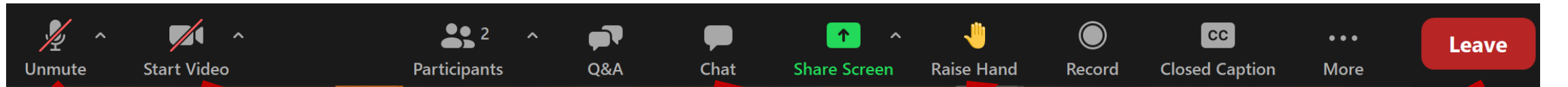
## **WHEN SPEAKING**

Please introduce yourself by stating your full name and who you represent.

## **PLEASE SPEAK SLOWLY**

To support our interpreters with accurately interpreting the information discussed during the meeting, please speak slowly.

# Zoom Tips



The image shows a Zoom toolbar with various icons and buttons. Red arrows point from text boxes below to specific icons: 'Unmute' (microphone icon), 'Start Video' (video camera icon), 'Q&A' (speech bubbles icon), 'Chat' (speech bubble icon), 'Raise Hand' (hand icon), and 'Leave' (red button). The 'Share Screen' button is highlighted in green. The 'Participants' button shows a count of 2. Other icons include 'Record', 'Closed Caption', and 'More'.

Unmute mic only when it's your turn to speak

Turn your webcam on/off

All attendees can type questions/comments in the Q&A

Chat is available all attendees

During public comment, please use the raise hand feature

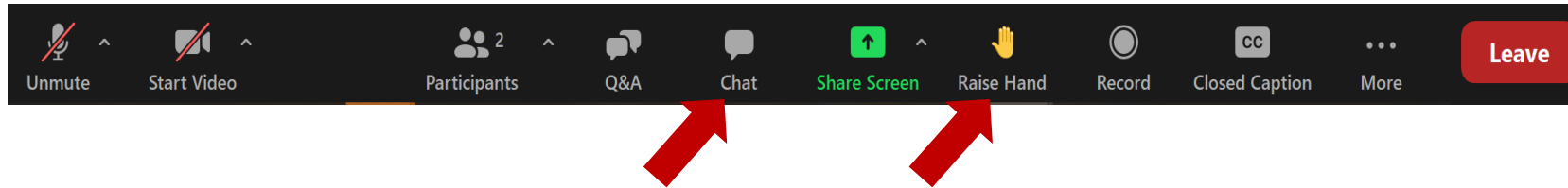
Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting



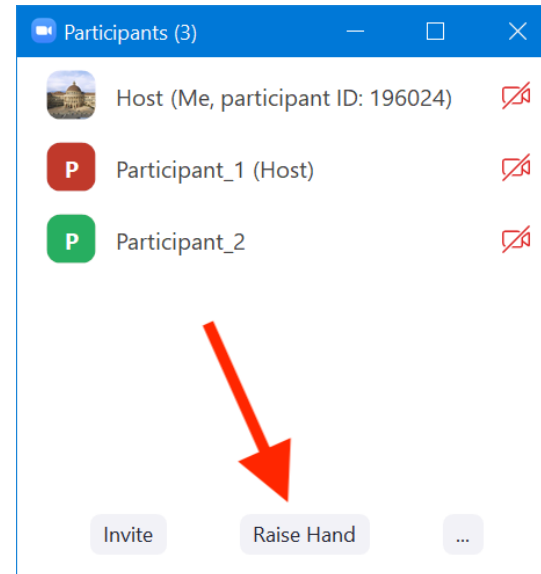
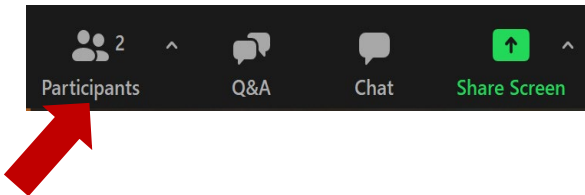
- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants

# Providing Comments – Appointed Members

**Appointed Members:** Please use the “Chat” or “Raise Hand” to comment



You may need to click on “Participants” and a new window will open where you can “Raise Hand”



# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review ICC Mission and Purpose
- III. Presentation: NICU Engagement (DDS)
- IV. Break**
- V. Presentations: ARPA Child Find & Outreach (SDRC & SCLARC)
- VI. Committee Reports & Approval for Projects
- VII. Public Input
- VIII. Recap and Closing Remarks



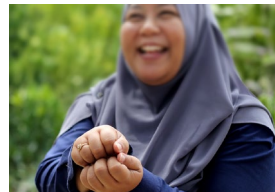
# ICC MISSION AND PURPOSE

**To promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, who have, or are at risk for having a developmental delay or disability, and their families, by utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration**



# Early Start Intake Standardization

October 2024





# EARLY START INTAKE – PROJECT PREMISE

- Serving eligible children from birth to 3 years of age is a statewide priority, particularly given the positive impact of providing early intervention to children with developmental delays, high risk or established risk conditions and their families.
- A System in Distress: Caring for Californians with Developmental Disabilities, Little Hoover Commission, April 2023
  - One of seven recommendations to reduce geographic and ethnic disparities

“Swift access to services is critical for these families, as early interventions can reduce the amount of help individuals may need later in life.”
- Senate Bill 138 directs the Department to establish more uniformity and consistency across regional centers.

# EARLY START INTAKE – WHAT WE KNOW

- Early Start intake requires multiple resources and is overly *burdensome* on the family and system.
- Children and families connected with early intervention services while the child is in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) have a **higher rate of program completion** than children & families who are connected *subsequent* to NICU discharge.
- Expediting eligibility determinations for infants in a NICU based on medical records in the high risk or established risk categories will **decrease gaps in service delivery** to eligible children and families.
- Due to differences in regional center Early Start intake processes, some regional centers deny ES referrals from a NICU due to an unfamiliar diagnosis or lack of developmental delay.
- The earlier an infant or toddler identified as needing services receives those services, the better.

# DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Lower the average age of entry into Early Start for children referred by Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs).
- Streamline the referral and evaluation process, to reduce the time frame for families to go through the intake process and provide interventions when services can have the most significant impact.
- Develop an intake process that is feasible for both referring health care professionals and regional centers.
- Uniform use of the category of established risk for Early Start eligibility, statewide.
- Develop a process that makes it possible to establish eligibility prior to a child's discharge from the NICU.

# EARLY START ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES

1. Developmental Delay – 25 percent in any area of development
2. High Risk for a Developmental Disability – A combination of biomedical or environmental factors or an infant or toddler has a parent that has an intellectual or developmental disability.
3. Established Risk - An established risk condition exists when an infant or toddler has a condition of **known etiology** which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay; or has a solely visual, hearing or orthopedic impairment.

Title 17, Section 52022

Infants and toddlers with established risk conditions, who are infants and toddlers with conditions of known etiology or conditions with established harmful developmental consequences. The conditions shall be diagnosed by a qualified personnel recognized by, or part of, a multidisciplinary team, including the parents. The condition shall be certified as having a high probability of leading to developmental delay if the delay is not evident at the time of diagnosis.

California Early Intervention Services Act, Government Code, Section 95014

# FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS: ELIGIBILITY BASED ON MEDICAL RECORDS

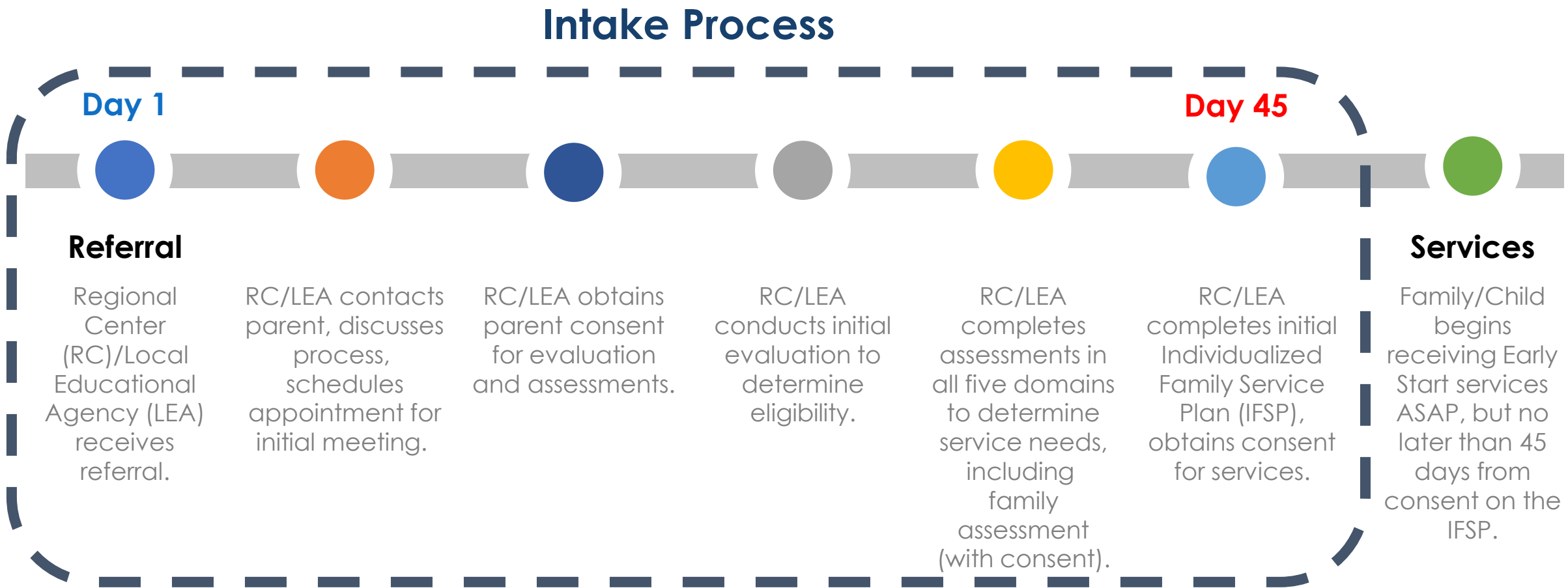
(3)

- (i) A child's medical and other records may be used to establish eligibility (without conducting an evaluation of the child) under this part if those records indicate that the child's level of functioning in one or more of the developmental areas identified in §303.21 (a)(1) constitutes a developmental delay or that the child otherwise meets the criteria for an infant or toddler with a disability under §303.21. **If the child's Part C eligibility is established under this paragraph, the lead agency or EIS provider must conduct assessments of the child and family in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.**
- (ii) Qualified personnel must use informed clinical opinion when conducting an evaluation and assessment of the child. In addition, the lead agency must ensure that **informed clinical opinion may be used as an independent basis to establish a child's eligibility under this part even when other instruments do not establish eligibility**; however, in no event may informed clinical opinion be used to negate the results of evaluation instruments used to establish eligibility under paragraph (b) of this section.

34 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 303.321



# EARLY START INTAKE PROCESS – REGIONAL CENTERS



\* Per minimum requirements in federal regulations. Note: California regulations mirror federal regulations.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES

- **Streamline the Early Start referral and intake for children with an established risk condition** across Regional Centers
  - Identify most common eligible established risk conditions
  - Identify information needed for NICU referrals
  - Identify a NICU Early Start referral process
- **DDS formed two workgroups** of clinicians and RC Early Start staff to:
  - **Develop a list of established risk conditions** similar to other states and
  - **Provide feedback on a streamlined Early Start referral form** for infants and toddlers with an established risk condition
- Workgroups met from May-July 2024

## Established Risk List Workgroup

- Physicians from the following agencies, including a clinical geneticist:
  - CHLA
  - NLARC
  - SDRC

## Referral Form/Process Workgroup

- IRC
- SCLARC
- SGPRC
- FDLRC
- SDRC
- FNRC
- NLACRC

# PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Aligned on a list of the most common established risk conditions, noting list is not exhaustive.
- Identified additional conditions may make an infant or toddler eligible based on informed clinical opinion.
- Established a process for physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners to certify that an infant or toddler has an established risk condition.
- ARCA Physicians Group will maintain and update the list of established risk conditions; established risk conditions list will be a standard agenda item for regular meetings.
- Standardized the content required in the NICU Referral Form.
- Identified issues/barriers identified regarding to connecting NICU families to regional centers, and regarding regional centers serving children and families in a timely manner.
- Provided recommendations.

# DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Definition of a qualified health professional that can certify that an infant or toddler has medical diagnosis and/or condition that may be a qualifying condition for Early Start:

For the purposes of a referral to the Early Start program, the term “qualified health professional” includes, physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners (NP). Qualified health professionals may certify that an infant or toddler has a medical diagnosis and / or condition that may meet the criteria to qualify for Early Start based on an established risk condition or has a combination of high-risk conditions. Licensed clinical social workers and Masters of social work, medical assistants or registered nurses may initiate a referral on behalf of a qualified health professional if accompanied by medical records or a signature of one of the qualified health professionals listed above. It is important to note that while a signature of a qualified health professional is required to certify a diagnosis, any individual may facilitate a referral to Early Start. The list of established risk conditions is not intended to be exhaustive.

# ICC FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- what are your initial thoughts on:
  - The list of established risk conditions
  - The definition of a qualified health professional
  - The expedited process for infants and toddler with high risk or established risk conditions.
- What else should we consider?

Please send feedback to: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)



## One word to describe how Early Start intake is now?

36 responses



# MENTIMETER RESULTS FROM LIVE ICC: How Early Start Intake Should Be

Mentimeter

## One word to describe how Early Start intake should be?

36 responses



# Thank you!

Questions or further input – Please email [EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov)

**BREAK**  
**Return at 11:30**

# **ARPA for Part C Child Find & Outreach Initiatives**

**San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) & South  
Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC)**





S|D|R|C

San Diego Regional Center

# Child Find Activities

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Part C

New initiative developed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for targeted outreach to families experiencing homelessness and immigration issues.



# Regional Center Responsibility

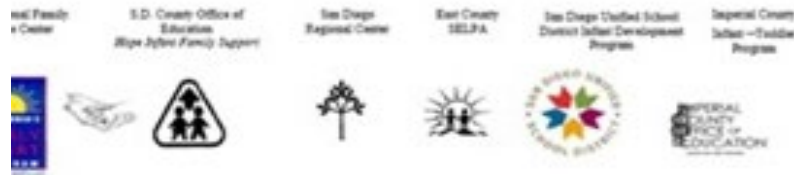
- Identify leads (Services Coordinators) who will coordinate and track activities for DDS reporting.
- Contract with Early Start service providers who can complete on-site developmental questionnaires.
- Identify and reach out to agencies that serve families who are unhoused and are fearful of accessing services due to their immigration status.
- Participate in community events and complete on-site developmental questionnaires.



# Outreach Efforts

- Provide Early Start eligibility, intake, and services. All brochures: English and threshold languages. CARDS with SDRC contact information in all threshold languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Persian, and Arabic).
- Provide Early Start check-off list and SDRC contact information at community events.
- Obtain as much contact information as possible from family such as alternate phone numbers, email, etc.
- Follow up with families after referral has been completed.
- Provide flyers to put up at community events and shelters indicating dates for on site developmental questionnaires.
- Ran radio ads in Spanish and put up billboards in Imperial County.

# Developmental Tool



**1-2 MONTHS OLD**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD'S INFORMATION

First	Middle	Last	Birth Date	Birthplace	Sex
Current Address			Telephone		
State		Zip	Health Insurance (TriCare, Medi-Cal, etc.)		
Age spoken by: Child		Family	Medi-Cal # / Sponsor# / Medical Record #		
City					

## PARENTS' INFORMATION

FATHER (Biological/Adoptive/Legal Guardian)			MOTHER (Biological/Adoptive/Legal Guardian)			
First	Middle	Last	Name	First	Middle	Last
Current Address			Current Address			
Home Phone		Work Phone	Home Phone		Work Phone	

Additional Address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

FOSTER FAMILY		
First	Middle	Last
Current Address		
Home Phone	Work Phone	

### 1) Social/Emotional Milestones

- ☐ Calms down when spoken to or picked up
- ☐ Looks at your face
- ☐ Seems happy to see you when you walk up to her
- ☐ Smiles when you talk to or smile at her

### 2) Language/Communication Milestones

- ☐ Makes sounds other than crying
- ☐ Reacts to loud sounds

### 3) Cognitive Milestones (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- ☐ Watches you as you move
- ☐ Looks at a toy for several seconds

### 4) Movement/Physical Development Milestones

- ☐ Holds head up when on tummy
- ☐ Moves both arms and both legs
- ☐ Opens hands briefly

### 5) Self-Help Milestones

- ☐ Sucks hand or thumb fortuitously

**Referral Needed.**  
date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Referral submitted**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Rationale: 1 area with 25% delay (1 out of 4 questions). \* Starred items from IDA.



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY

## **Collaboration with community partners:**

We have established ongoing relationships with the Mexican Consulate, MACC, La Maestra Community Clinic, Neighborhood House, SDCOE, ECS, Para las Familias, Father Joe's Village, San Diego Rescue Mission, Birthline of San Diego, South Bay Community Services and Doors of HOPE.

## **Partnered with these organizations for several events:**

Chicano Federation, Chula Vista Community Collaborative, Family Health Center, San Ysidro Health Center, Vista Community Clinic, Dreams for Change, HDS, SAY SD, CARE, First Five, Live Well (SD County) Homeless Solutions & Migrant Education and many others.



## **San Diego County**-Mexican Consulate Monthly Events **Community Events**

DJ Tomko, DDS

Noemi Silva, ARPA  
Part C: Imperial

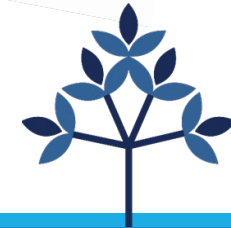
Sonia Griffin,  
ARPA Part C:  
San Diego



## San Diego County- Community Events



SDRC staff, STARS, and District Attorney Summer Stephan



## San Diego County- Fair Community Events

Health and Resource Fair



Screening Babies





## San Diego County-Questionnaire



Questionnaire at a homeless shelter with an Early Start provider (HGH)



# San Diego County

## Data for August 2022 – September 2024

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### EVENTS:

- 116 Community Events
- 42 Shelter Visits
- 35 Presentations for community partners promoting Early Start and ARPA Part C initiative

### OUTCOMES:

- 506 Babies screened
- 325 Referred
- 139 Eligible (receiving Early Start services)
- 5 Pending IDA assessments



# Imperial County



CONSULADO DE MÉXICO EN  
CALÉXICO, CALIFORNIA



Welcome to the Imperial County  
Migrant Education Program- Region VI



Department  
of  
Social Services



RITE OF PASSAGE  
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF YOUTH

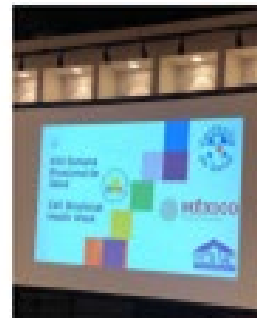


Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council  
Vulnerable Population Committee





# Imperial County- Community Events



# Imperial County-Events



Go Gold for Childhood Cancer



El Grito de Independencia



Joab Gonzales SDRC Manager of Client Services,  
Imperial County Office  
Tarcisio Navarrete- Mexico's consul in Calexico  
Mario Beltran Mainero- Deputy Consul at Consulate  
of Mexico in Calexico



Early Start flyer prominently  
displayed at Calexico One Stop



# Imperial County

## Data for August 2022 – September 2024

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### EVENTS:

- 92 Community Events
- 2 Shelter Visits
- 6 Presentations for community partners promoting Early Start and ARPA Part C initiative

### OUTCOMES:

- 123 Babies screened
- 86 Referred
- 74 Eligible (ES services)
- 1 Pending assessment



# Testimonial from a Community Partner

Our collaboration with the San Diego Regional Center, the ARPA Part C project in particular, has truly contributed to our mission at Father Joe's Villages of making it a one shop (removing all of the barriers by having all essential resources in one place) for our clients. Children experiencing homelessness have a higher chance of presenting with developmental delays. ARPA Part C has brought our homeless community the opportunity to learn about their children's development and to have prompt access to early intervention services. This in turn will help set their children up for a better future. Bringing this early intervention to Father Joe's Villages and our Golden Hall children and families is helping detect delays that may have not been detected until school age. It has also helped our parents learn specific ways to support their children's development. It is a partnership that we find very beneficial and hope to keep intact.

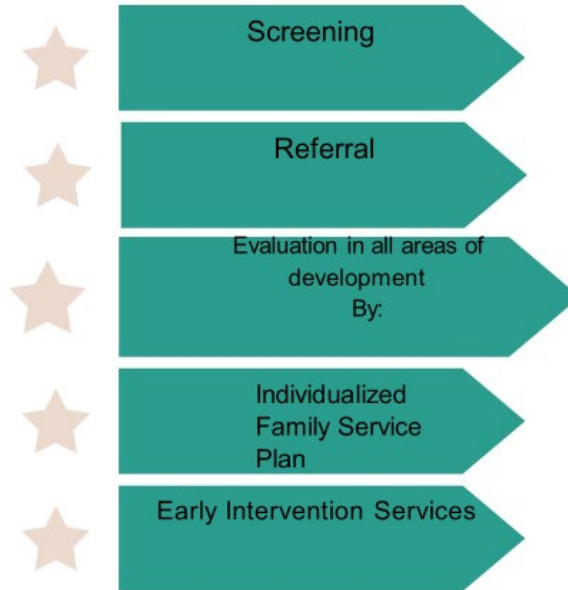
**Veronica Sandoval**  
Education Coordinator  
Father Joe's Villages





San Diego Regional Center  
4355 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123  
858-576-2555 / [www.sdiric.org](http://www.sdiric.org)  
Serving individuals with developmental disabilities in San Diego and Imperial Counties

## Early Start Process



Is your child meeting their  
developmental milestones?  
Learn more.



We offer **FREE** developmental  
screenings for babies 0-36 months.

**FREE gift for participating!**

Receive a diaper bag filled with wipes,  
diapers, and changing pad.



# **SDRC-TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT**

## **Service Access and Equity**

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SDRC Tribal Outreach Specialist:

Coordinates outreach activities to tribal communities to provide information on Regional Center systems and available services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Identify service gaps in the tribal communities, identify the unmet needs, and assist with resource development to increase access to services.

Assist service providers through the Regional Center vendor process.

Assist with the planning, development, and implementation of training materials focused on intellectual/developmental disabilities, tribal communities, and their unique needs.



# TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

## Service Access and Equity

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### EVENTS and PRESENTATIONS

Viejas Family Literacy Fun  
Pala Honoring Traditions  
SIHC 25th Annual NAHWC  
CIEFA Summer Summit  
County of San Diego CFWB and ISU  
Viejas TED, Rec Center, Wellness Center  
SIHC ICSS  
Sycuan Department of Education  
CTFC 2nd Annual I/DD Symposium  
Back to School Events  
Barona Powwow  
Sycuan Powwow

### OUTCOMES

Screenings: 36  
Referrals: 25  
Over 3 Referrals: 21  
4 reactivated cases





# Tribal Engagement

## **Tribal Engagement**

SERVICE ACCESS AND EQUITY





# Vendor Role During Outreach Event

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## **Role**

- Get to know the population and purpose of the event
- Building rapport with families and discuss the importance of Early Start services
- Brief overview of screening results
- Introduce the process and what to expect next

## **Connecting with Families Following the Outreach Event**

- During initial call remind families of the event and be engaging
- Contact families immediately
- Collaborate with the Service Coordinator



# Overcoming Barriers

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## **Barriers**

- Connecting with families
- Language barrier
- Cancellations, reschedules, and no shows
- Transportation

## **Overcoming Barriers**

- Communication with Service Coordinator is key
- Provide flexibility for the families
- Communicate important details to the assessment team



# THANK YOU

Sonia Griffin, M.A.  
Early Childhood Service Coordinator- South Inland  
San Diego Regional Center  
[Sonia.Griffin@sdrc.org](mailto:Sonia.Griffin@sdrc.org)

Noemi Silva, B.S.  
Early Childhood Service Coordinator- Imperial County  
[Noemi.Silva@sdrc.org](mailto:Noemi.Silva@sdrc.org)

Bernadette Boren, B.A.  
Tribal Outreach Specialist  
[Bernadette.Boren@sdrc.org](mailto:Bernadette.Boren@sdrc.org)





# SCLARC Connections Program



**S C L A R C**

**South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center**

*for persons with  
developmental disabilities, inc.*

# Overview of the program

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- Staff are located at partner community sites who serve young children. Connections staff will train partner staff on how to offer developmental screenings to parents. Families will be offered developmental screenings for their children as well as information on early intervention services.
- Outreach – Promote program and obtain referrals by attending resource fairs in the community.
- Education – Presentations (Understanding early development, recognizing red flags for developmental delays, Regional Center services & referrals and using developmental screening tools)
- Training opportunities for parents





# Staff:

1 Connections Supervisor





# Connections Partners

New Partner: HOPICS

# ASQ Screenings Breakdown

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Total ASQ's  
Completed

568\*

\*Screenings for 0-3  
and 4-5 year olds

ASQ's Completed for  
**Ages 0-3**

463

ASQ's Completed for  
**Ages 4-5**

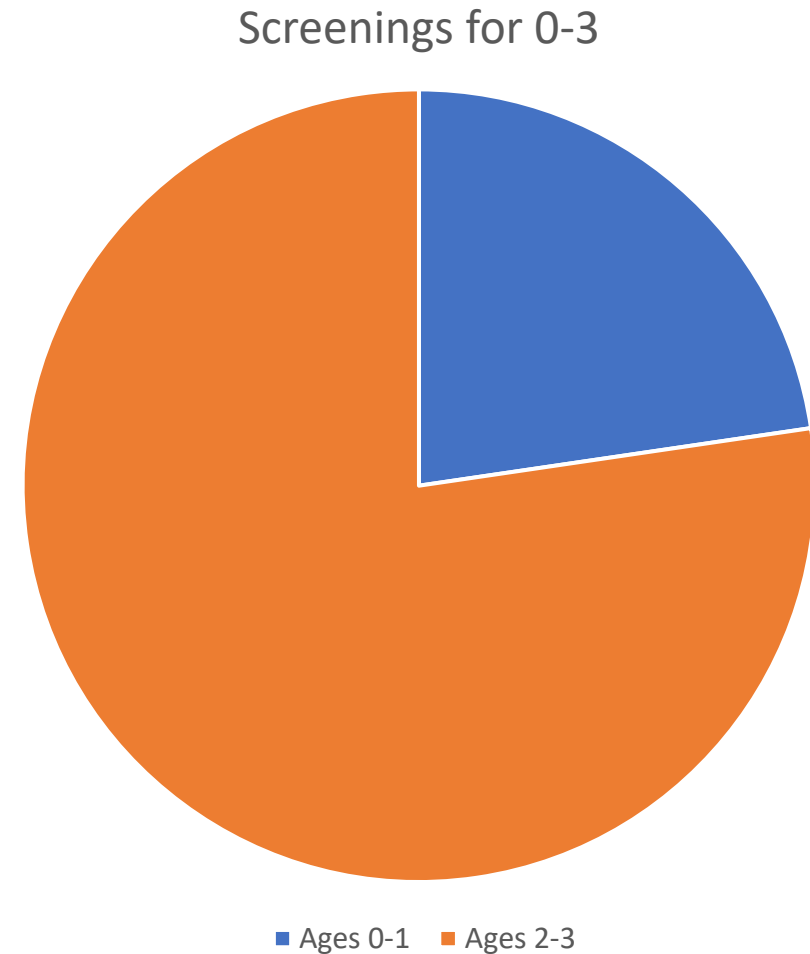
105



# ASQ Screenings for Ages 0-3

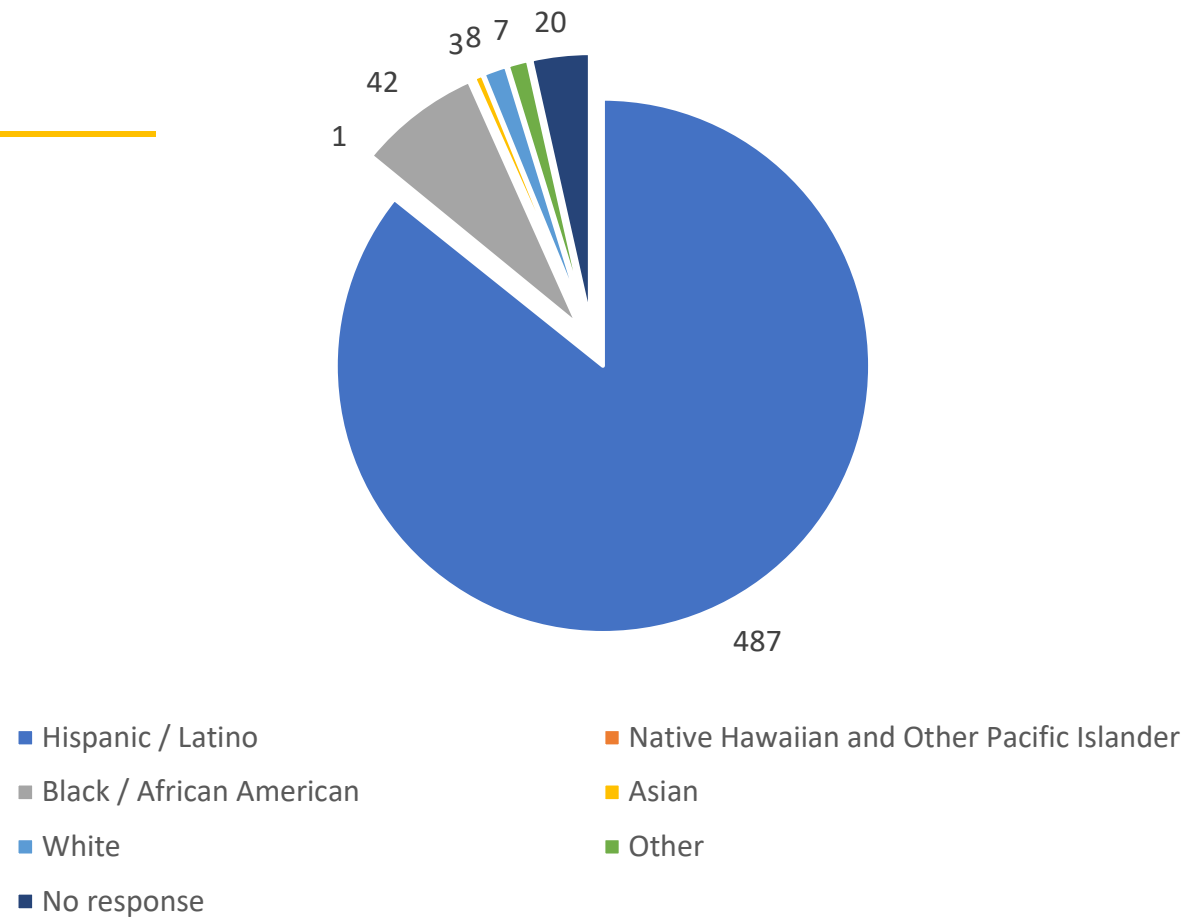
ASQ's Completed for  
**Age 0-1** 105

ASQ's Completed for  
**Age 2-3** 358



# ASQ Screenings by Ethnicity

Hispanic / Latino	487
White	8
Black / African American	42
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	1
Asian	3
Other	7
No response	20





# Total Referrals Completed

<u>Total Regional Center Referrals:</u>	205
<u>Total SCLARC Referrals</u>	180
<u>Total Referrals to other RC's</u>	25
<u>Total School District Referrals:</u>	40

# SCLARC Referrals Breakdown

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Total SCLARC  
Referrals

180

Total Early Start  
Referrals

123

Total Lanterman  
Referrals

57

# SCLARC Early Start Eligibility

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Total SCLARC Early  
Start Referrals

123

Children Eligible for  
Early Start

86

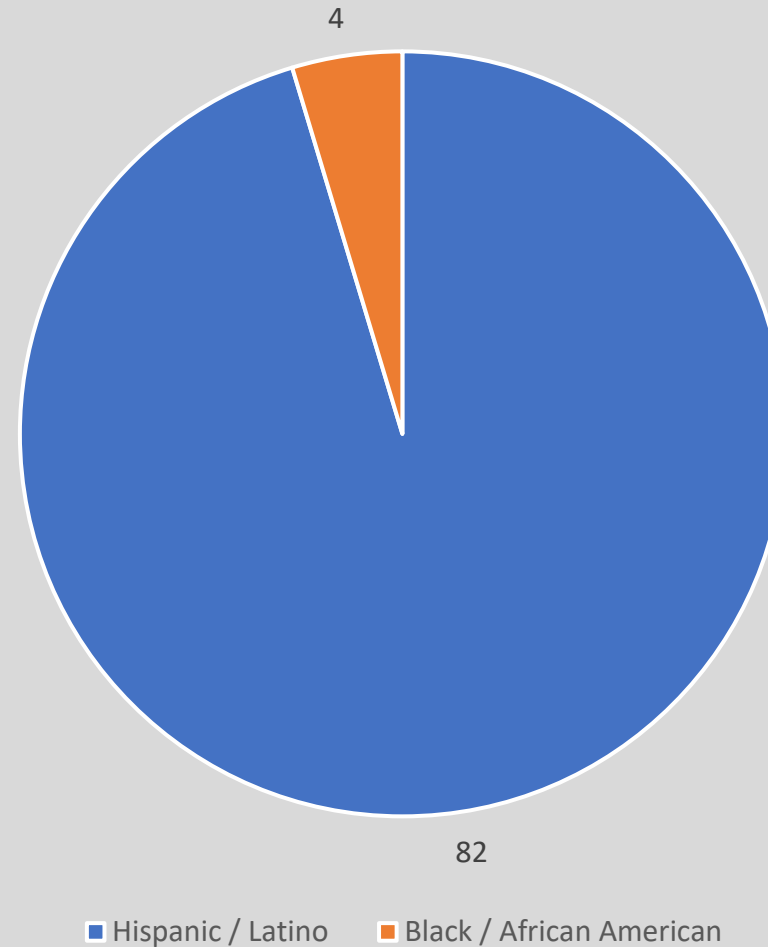
# Early Start Eligibility by Ethnicity

Hispanic / Latino

82

Black / African  
American

4

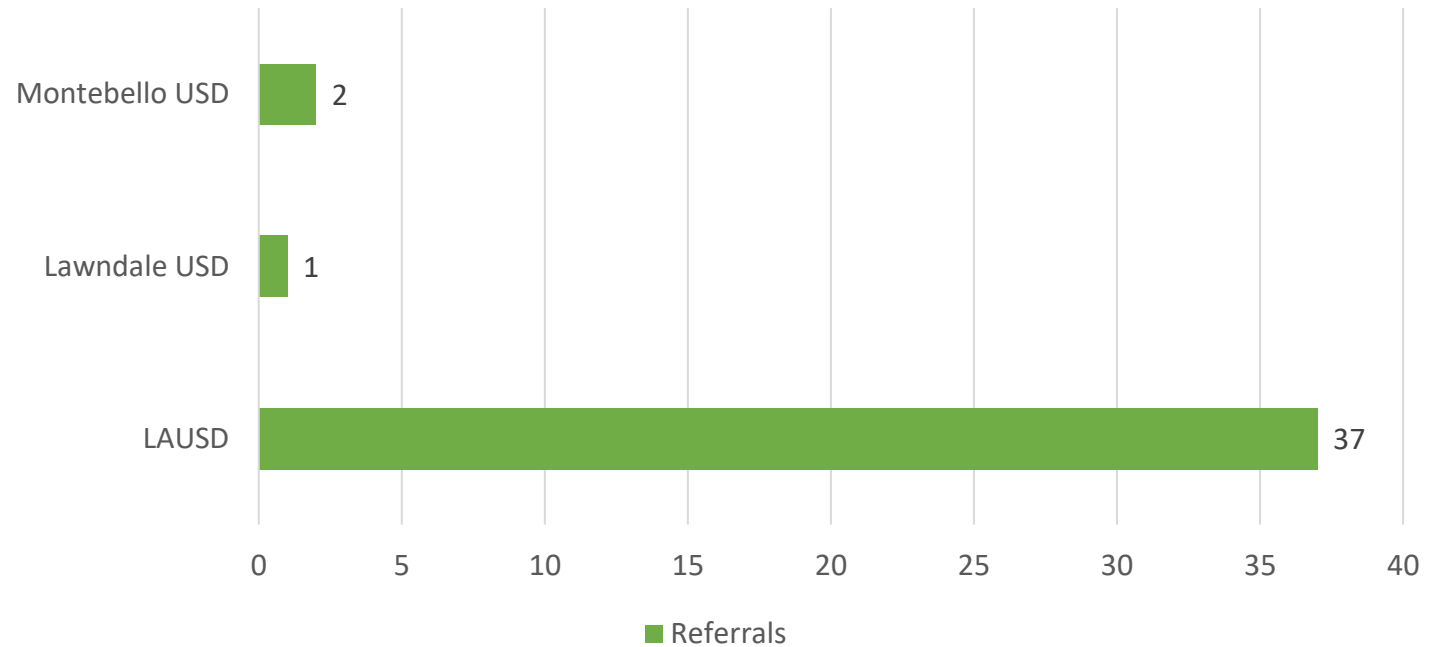


# School District Referrals Breakdown

Total School District Referrals 40

Total LAUSD Referrals 37

Total Referrals to Other School Districts 3



# Outreach Efforts

Total Outreach Events  
Attended: **76**



Total Community Members  
Served: **2,521**





# SCLARC Connections Program



**Do you have concerns for  
your child's development?**

Parents with children 0-3 years of age who have concerns with their child's speech, movement or learning, or those who simply want to find out about their child's general development can call to schedule a **FREE developmental screening.**



South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
*for persons with  
developmental disabilities, inc.*

**Call (323) 998-9553**

Or fill out



# A Day of Play for LA: Annual Healthy Kids Day at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum







LA County  
Parks and  
Recreation:  
Parks after  
Dark

# Trinity Park Health and Wellness Resource Fair





# Presentations

Total Presentations Delivered:  
**19**

Total Community Members  
Reached: **230**



**Kiara Lopez**

Chief Advancement Officer

[KiaraL@sclarc.org](mailto:KiaraL@sclarc.org)

213-744-8420

thank you!



[www.sclarc.org](http://www.sclarc.org)

[@SCLARC](https://www.facebook.com/SCLARC)

[@south\\_central\\_la\\_rc](https://www.instagram.com/south_central_la_rc)

<https://sclarc.org/news-and-media.php>



# Committee Reports

Improving State Systems  
Communication and Outreach

# PUBLIC INPUT

# Public Input Guidelines

## COMMENTS CAN BE IN WRITING OR SPOKEN

All comments are published as part of the public record and provided to ICC members

## EACH PERSON HAS 2 MINUTES TO COMMENT

We want to make sure there's time to hear from everyone. Longer comments? Submit them in writing to ensure your full message is shared

## COMMENTING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

One person is welcome to share input from others, please just be mindful of time, summarize key points and turn in any written statements

## PLEASE BE SPECIFIC

A clear statement-including specific suggestions for addressing any concerns you may have- is most helpful

## WANT TO SHARE A POWERPOINT OR VIDEOS AS PART OF YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT?

Email [EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov) at least 14 days in advance with any audio/visual needs

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR MEETING



ICC Webpage: [State ICC on Early Intervention Overview](#)

DDS Early Start Mailbox: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)

