

April 1, 2025

D-2025-Early Start-001

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TRANSITION OF STATUS 1 CHILDREN OVER THREE YEARS OF AGE

This directive reminds regional centers about requirements for transitioning Early Start children (status code 1) into Lanterman Act services (status codes U and 2) by the child's third birthday. As of February 2025, statewide data indicates there are 6,929 status 1 children who are over 36 months old. This is a 22.5 percent increase compared to February 2024.

It is crucial that regional centers follow the timelines for transitioning children out of the Early Start program to promote continuity of services and supports. Pursuant to [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) section 4512\(a\)\(3\)\(B\)](#), an infant or toddler receiving early intervention services from the regional center shall be assessed for purposes of determining the child's eligibility for Lanterman Act services at least 90 days prior to the date the child turns three years of age. If the regional center determines that a child does not qualify for Lanterman Act services, the regional center shall give adequate notice pursuant to the WIC section above.

Further, in transitioning children out of Early Start, regional centers are encouraged to consider Lanterman Act provisional eligibility (status U). Please refer to Directive [D-2024-Legislation-002 - 2024 Trailer Bill Language Summary](#) regarding the most recent changes in eligibility requirements. Regional centers are to follow best practices to make informed eligibility decisions with all current information available. A psycho-social assessment may not be required to determine provisional eligibility for Lanterman Act services. As such, regional centers are encouraged to use all available data, such as the child's most recent progress report per California Code of Regulations section [52102](#), or a developmental assessment tool (e.g. [DAYC-2](#), [BSID-4](#), [MSEL](#)) that provides information on the child's adaptive skills and may identify functional limitations in two areas of major life activity, that may qualify the child for provisional eligibility. A child in status 1 shall not be set to status code 0 while being assessed for potential or actual transition to a Lanterman Act or provisional eligibility status.

For questions or additional information, please contact Marcy Okada, Chief, Transitions and Partnerships Section via email at Marcy.Okada@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

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

cc: On following page

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