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Department of Developmental Services

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GAVIN NEWSOM

GOVERNOR

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TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

In collaboration with regional centers, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) continues to expand on services and supports that enable individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind to lead full and inclusive lives. The ability to effectively communicate with others enhances individuals' ability to meet wants and needs, access the community, and develop relationships, among other important life functions.

The Department developed a new service, American Sign Language (ASL) Training and Support – Service Code 644, to help individuals improve or develop their expressive and receptive communication. The service is intended to help individuals improve functional communication skills through the use of formal ASL and to reduce the use of home signs. With appropriate language support, individuals can thrive in expressing their desires and needs, fostering a whole-person-centered environment. Direct support professionals and family members may also receive training while the individual is present to promote more cultural and linguistic understanding of the natural environment. The service description is attached.

The Department has established rates for ASL Training and Support which can be found [here](#).

Regional centers should make this new service available to individuals beginning in September 2025.

If you have any questions about ASL Training and Support services, please contact Lisa Gonzales at Lisa.Gonzales@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

MICHI A. GATES, Ph.D.
Chief Deputy Director, Program Services

Attachment

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies