

## **Service Access and Equity Grant Program**

### **Grant Guidelines Glossary**

#### **Definitions of Selected Terms Utilized in the Guidelines**

**Note:** The following terms can be defined in many ways; they are provided here to help applicants complete their proposal.

#### **Bidder's Conference**

A public meeting held shortly after the grant guidelines are released. It's a chance for anyone interested in applying for the grant, like Regional Centers (RCs), community-based organizations (CBOs), or universities, to ask questions, get clarifications, and hear directly from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) staff. The goal is to make sure all applicants understand the process and requirements before submitting their proposals.

#### **Biennial Cycle**

The schedule the Service Access and Equity (SAE) Grant Program now follows. Instead of releasing new grant opportunities every year, they are released every two years. This gives funded projects two full years to run, build stronger community relationships, and show results. It also reduces the burden of reapplying every year, so both DDS and grantees can focus more on the actual work and outcomes.

#### **Catchment Area**

The geographic region that each RC is responsible for serving. Where a person lives determines which RC, and catchment area, they belong to. Each catchment area looks different depending on its size, community, and languages. Understanding catchment areas helps DDS and grantees design projects that address the unique needs of local families and communities.

#### **Community Based Organization (CBO)**

For the purposes of this funding, a CBO is defined as a public or private nonprofit, or private for profit- organization that is representative of and advocates for a community or significant segments of a community. Each CBO must describe its organization and clearly state how it meets the definition of a CBO.

## **Cultural Competency**

Requires organizations to: (1) have a defined set of values and principles; (2) make sure that there are behaviors, attitudes, policies, and structures in place so that they can work with all racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups. Cultural competence is a developmental process – meaning it takes place over time. Both individuals and organizations have different levels of awareness, knowledge, and skills because cultural competence occurs along a continuum.

## **Linguistic competency**

Linguistic competence is the capacity of an organization to be responsive to and meet the communication needs of the people and communities it supports and serves. The organization should have policies, practices, procedures, and dedicated resources (budget and staff) to ensure diverse populations can access and benefit from supports and services. This may include but is not limited to persons who experience I/DD including those who may be deaf and hard of hearing or may not use speech as primary means of communication, who are not literate or who have low literacy and health literacy skills.

## **Diversity**

Diversity refers to the presence of differences among people. These differences can include characteristics, experiences, and/or perspectives (e.g. diagnoses, race, language, national origin, citizenship, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, etc.). A diverse group brings together a broad range of voices and lived experiences.

## **Inclusion**

Inclusion refers to ensuring that every person, regardless of their background, is genuinely welcomed, respected, supported, and valued. An inclusive environment actively removes barriers to participation and encourages equitable opportunity for engagement, collaboration, and decision-making.

## **Regional Centers (RCs)**

RCs are private nonprofit corporations that contract with DDS to provide or coordinate services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities. There are 21 RCs in California. The RC contact list is located [here](#) at Attachment F.

**Purchase of Services (POS)**

Refers to authorization for and purchase of RC services for consumers and includes service authorizations and expenditures. POS expenditure data represent the cost of services that the RC paid to vendored service providers on behalf of the consumer and his/her family. RC POS data is located [here](#) at Attachment D.