

**Department of Developmental Services
Proposed Trailer Bill Legislation
Fiscal Year 2026-27**

**Remote Services
FACT SHEET**

1. Proposal:

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) proposes authorizing the continued use of remote services as an option for specified services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by California's 21 regional centers. This proposal would codify the ability of individuals and families to select remote services when appropriate, while maintaining standards of quality, accountability, and compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

2. Background:

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Department authorized certain services to be delivered remotely, including day programs, look-alike day programs, independent living services, behavior services, and clinical assessment services.

3. Justification for the Change:

Remote services have demonstrated effectiveness in enhancing access, equity, and choice. Remote services also provide essential continuity of care, particularly for individuals in rural areas, facing mobility or health challenges, and families balancing caregiving and employment.

There is strong support among individuals and families to retain remote service options beyond the temporary authorization. Due to ambiguity in the statute regarding the use of remote services, this proposal provides needed clarification.

4. Summary of Arguments in Support:

Historically, providing services remotely has expanded access to services by reducing or eliminating transportation, geographic, and health-related barriers. Remote service delivery offers a flexible option for individuals and families in underserved communities, enhancing choice and independence by allowing individuals to select the service delivery method that best aligns with their needs and supports their person-centered individual program plan. Furthermore, remote services provide a modern, sustainable service delivery option that can adapt to both emergencies and evolving individual needs.