

3/27/2026

*Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:*

# LEVEL OF CARE FINAL DETERMINATION

D-2026-Home and Community Based Services-001

---

## What to Know

The Department is updating its oversight process for regional centers' Level of Care (LOC) determinations. This update is necessary to better align with federal requirements for California's Home & Community Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and the Self Determination Program Waiver.

## What's Changing

Nothing is changing for individuals or families receiving services. After May 1, 2026, this directive might result in targeted follow-up with regional centers on a case-by-case basis.

This directive to the regional centers explains how the Department will review LOC designations:

- If the CDER does not show a person is eligible, the Department will contact their regional center for more information.
- The regional center will need to provide more documents that show the person is eligible.
- Most individuals submitted by regional centers for waiver enrollment meet the LOC based on the CDER and won't be subject to this directive.

## Questions?

Individuals and families with questions about LOC should contact their service coordinator. Regional centers can email [levelofcare@dds.ca.gov](mailto:levelofcare@dds.ca.gov).

## Learn More

- [Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Developmentally Disabled \(HCBS-DD\)](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/DD.aspx):  
(<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/DD.aspx>)

