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May 12, 2026

D-2026-Equity-001

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY – PROGRAM UPDATES

This directive updates the requirements for the Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) Program. It replaces the [April 6, 2022 Directive](#) and the [November 25, 2024, Revision to the Directive on reporting dates](#). It also begins a two-year planning cycle beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27. These updates are issued according to the [Welfare & Institutions Code § 4620.4](#). The LACC Program receives \$16.7 million each year in the state budget to improve language access and cultural competency in the developmental service system. All LACC activities and funding described in this directive remain subject to funding provided in the state budget.

Program History

The LACC Program was established to reduce language and cultural barriers to accessing regional center services. The goal is to strengthen communication between regional centers and the diverse communities they serve. The LACC program supports equitable access to services and information through interpretation services, translated vital documents, culturally responsive orientations and outreach, and community partnerships. It also supports regional center staff development through bilingual and bicultural positions, as well as training that improves cultural responsiveness.

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) uses a standardized methodology to allocate LACC funding across regional centers. This approach considers each regional center's language needs, cultural and demographic data, hearing disability information, and outreach needs of individuals not yet connected to services. This methodology distributes funding fairly and reflects the linguistic and cultural needs of each community.

To support long-term planning, continuity, and reduce administrative burden, the LACC Program is transitioning to a two-year planning cycle beginning fiscal year (FY) 2026–27. Regional center funding remains annual. Reporting deadlines follow the State's fiscal year.

Biennial LACC Plan

Starting in FY 2026–27, each regional center must submit, for the Department's review and approval, a two-year LACC plan.

- The plan for the first two-year cycle covers FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.
- The plan submission is now due June 1, 2026, for the Department's approval, extending the previous due date of May 15 set in the November 25, 2024 revised directive.

- In the future, new 2-year plans will be due every two years on June 1.

Although each plan covers two years, implementation depends on annual Budget Act appropriations. If funding levels change, regional centers must adjust activities accordingly. A full plan resubmission is not required unless funding changes result in major revisions to planned activities. Otherwise, regional centers must submit an amendment explaining the updates and the reasons for the changes. Minor adjustments may be documented through regular progress reports.

In preparing the two-year plan, regional centers should gather community input through focus groups, listening sessions, surveys, and language demographics. This information should guide planning and help reduce service disparities. Each biennial LACC Plan must cover all the areas listed below. The level of detail provided may differ based on the regional center's needs assessment. If a particular area does not apply, the regional center must provide a brief explanation.

Required Sections of the Biennial LACC Plans:

- A description of language and cultural needs in the service area
- Plans for accurately translating vital documents
- Processes for interpretation services, including American Sign Language
- Culturally responsive outreach and engagement activities
- Partnerships with community-based, culturally specific, and other local organizations
- Staff training to improve cultural responsiveness
- Performance metrics and methods for evaluating progress along with the data used for the evaluation to determine if improvements are achieved
- A two-year budget with justifications for each line item

Funding Requirements

The LACC program is a specialized funding allocation. It is meant to add to, not replace, existing efforts that support broader communities. All expenditures must align with allowable uses under the budget details and restrictions and follow the requirements below:

- **Personnel Expenses:** Direct expenses costs for carrying out the LACC Plan, including staff. Up to 50 percent of the allocation may be used for personnel costs and requires Department approval. Any request to exceed this cap is subject to approval by the Department.
- **Operating Expenses:** Costs needed to complete LACC activities, including contract and consultant fees.
- **Indirect/Administrative Expenses:** Optional. If used, these expenses cannot exceed 15 percent of the combined Personnel Expenses and Operating Expenses.

Plan Submission & Posting Requirements

- Regional centers must submit their LACC Plans to the Department through GrantVantage for review and approval
- Each regional center must post its plan on its website within 30 days of the Department's approval.
- Summarized plans will be posted on the Department's [public website](#).

Reporting

Regional centers must follow this Semi-Annual reporting schedule:

- **January 31:** First Semi-Annual Progress Report for July-December
- **July 31:** Second Semi-Annual Progress Report for January-June
- **January 31:** Third Semi-Annual Progress Report for July-December
- **July 31:** Fourth Semi-Annual Progress Report for January-June

Reports must describe progress on the LACC Program's numerical and narrative standardized measures, identify challenges, note needed adjustments, and provide expenditure updates. All reports must be submitted through GrantVantage.

Fiscal Requirements

Regional centers must document all LACC expenditures in GrantVantage. Claims must be submitted through the General Fund operations claiming process. LACC expenditures must match approved plan activities and be charged to the allocation for the fiscal year in which the funds are appropriated or to the subsequent plan year when properly encumbered. All expenditure must stay within the two-year project timeline. For additional information refer to the [Language Access and Cultural Competency Updates and Claiming Guidelines](#).

Implementation and Oversight

The Department's LACC Team will review and approve LACC Plan submissions, monitor implementation, assess progress and spending, and provide training and technical assistance.

For additional information please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions attachment to this directive. For all other inquiries, contact the Department's LACC Team in the Access & Equity Division at LACCProgram@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

JARITA PICHON
Chief Equity Officer
Access and Equity Division

Attachment

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