

September 21, 2026

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

REGIONAL CENTER DEAF ACCESS SPECIALIST POSITION DUTIES

G-2026-Regional Center Operations-002

What to Know

In 2021, regional centers (RC) were given money to hire a Deaf Access Specialist. This guidance for regional centers explains the duties of the Deaf Access Specialist position as follows:

- Help RCs find and improve services for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind.
- Train RC staff on language access and Deaf culture.
- Work with the Department, other agencies, and the Deaf community to make services better for people.
- Help RCs with accessibility rules, communication materials, assessments, best practices, better processes, and getting useful data.

This information does not change how individuals and their families receive services.

Questions?

Questions from regional centers should be directed to your primary regional center liaison at cob@dds.ca.gov

Questions about the duties of the deaf access specialist please contact Lisa Gonzales, Chief, Service Innovation and Oversight Division at lisa.gonzales@dds.ca.gov or (916) 400-9707.

Learn More

For more information visit

[Department's Deaf Awareness Month and Deaf Services Specialist newsletter](#)

(<https://www.dds.ca.gov/newsletter/deaf-awareness-month/>).

