

THE LANTERMAN COALITION

A coalition of statewide associations and organizations representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



Proposed Multi-Year Strategic Plan to Restore Health, Safety, and Opportunity for Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Through the Lanterman Act, California provides services and supports to more than 350,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and this year alone more than 15,000 new individuals are expected to require support. At the same time, direct support staff turnover is high due to low wages, essential programs are closing across the state, and regional center caseload ratios are too high, all of which force people to live with inadequate or no supports.

California recently completed a multi-year rate study which confirms this crisis, and concludes that developmental services in California are currently underfunded *\$1.8 billion* (*\$1.2 billion general fund*). This massive funding deficit is the result of two decades of neglect during the state budget process, significant cuts during the recession, and the lack of a strategic, ongoing investment plan. Individuals with I/DD, their families, and their direct support professionals are suffering as a result.

Last year the I/DD community made it clear that emergency funding was needed to triage the crisis and “buy time” as a plan to move forward was developed. Thanks to the efforts of legislative champions, policy leaders in the administration, and a robust community engagement

the budget included an increase of \$124.5 million General Fund in FY 2019-20 and \$249 million General Fund in FY 2020-21. This increase, however, included potential suspension on

January 1, 2022, omitted critical services from receiving necessary increases, will barely keep pace with the increased costs associated with rising state minimum wage, and left all services in high cost areas out of adjustments for state minimum wage increases. Most importantly, according to the draft rate study models, ***developmental services are still glaringly underfunded by more than \$1 billion in California.***

Now, the appropriate and required course of action is to implement a multi-year strategic investment plan which ensures that the I/DD community and the promise of the Lanterman Act moves from a time of crisis and into a time of opportunity, innovation, and measurable outcomes. With that plan in place, the state of California will enter a new era of community inclusion, including employment opportunities, robust early intervention, legally-required caseload ratios for service coordination, access to housing, and individual health and well-being. In addition, the 150,000 direct support professionals in California will finally have job stability and a livable wage.

The Lanterman Coalition, comprised of statewide and regional groups advocating for people with I/DD, stresses the urgency for continued investment and therefore proposes a multi-year strategic plan that will do the following:

- 1. Phase-in the rate models over three years;**
- 2. Make immediate corrective actions for services omitted from emergency funding increases last year, and take immediate actions to comply with Federal and State caseload ratios;**
- 3. Ensure all DDS funded services & supports receive adjustments for state minimum wage increases;**
- 4. Secure a foundation for long-term planning by removing the suspension date of January 1, 2022.**

Multi-Year Strategic Plan to Restore Health, Safety, and Opportunity for Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8% across the board rate increase for emergency funding and triage. • Fix the minimum wage “quirk”. • Restore recession era cuts. <p>TOTAL Proposed = \$359M GF</p> <p>TOTAL Enacted = \$154.5M GF in FY 2019-20, \$279M GF in FY 2020-21, Suspension date of January 1, 2022</p>	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 of total amount of rate increases proposed in finalized rate models*, holding harmless any current rates above that level. • 3.3% rate increase to adjust for the \$1 increase to minimum wage starting January 1, 2021. • Rate Augmentation of \$100 per month for service staff fluent in non-English languages. • Corrective action of emergency 8.2% rate increase for early intervention and independent living services. • Regional center operations funding for caseload ratio compliance. • Remove suspension date <p>TOTAL Proposed ≈ \$450M GF</p>	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 of total amount of rate increases proposed in finalized rate models*, holding harmless any current rates above that level. • 3.3% rate increase to adjust for the \$1 increase to minimum wage starting January 1, 2022. • Reclassification of service codes to align with rate models. • Implementation of rate adjustments based on regional cost differences, to align with rate models. <p>TOTAL Proposed ≈ \$410M GF</p>	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 of total amount of rate increases proposed in finalized rate models*, holding harmless any current rates above that level. • Proportional rate increase to adjust for a CPI-related increase in minimum wage, starting January 1, 2023 • Implementation of tiered rate augmentations for DSP I, II, & III status, along with training requirements, as outlined in the rate models. <p>TOTAL Proposed ≈ \$345M GF</p>

* At the time of this proposal revised rate models have not been released.