

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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## **Call for Disparity Funds Program Applications Notice to Prospective Applicants**

Date: July 30, 2019

In 2016, ABX2 1 (Chapter 3, Statutes of 2016) added Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4519.5(h) to the W&I Code and allocated funds to the Department of Developmental Services (Department), to assist regional centers in the implementation of strategies to reduce disparities in the purchase of services (POS). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/17, the Department solicited regional center proposals and approved funding for projects to reduce disparities and promote equitable access to regional center services and supports. In 2017, trailer bill language amended W&I Code section 4519.5 to allow community-based organizations (CBO) to apply for and receive funding to address disparities and/or equitable access to services.

The Department is now accepting applications from regional centers and CBOs for disparity funds available in FY 2019/20. Regional centers and CBOs are invited to respond to this call for applications for the Disparity Funds Program. Applications must comply with the instructions contained in the ***Guidelines for Applicants***, located on the Department's website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/disparities.cfm> under "FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 DISPARITY FUNDS PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS." Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on **September 30, 2019**.

The Department will hold a conference call on August 13, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to address questions regarding the Disparity Funds Program. Interested parties are encouraged to submit questions to [disparityfundsprogram@dds.ca.gov](mailto:disparityfundsprogram@dds.ca.gov) in advance of this call, but not later than August 6, 2019. More details about the conference call will be provided soon in an updated notice.

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) will be posted to the Department's webpage and updated following the August 13, 2019 conference call.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**