

Policy...They Can't Make it Without You

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(ARCA)

Tonight We'll Cover

What is ARCA?

How policy-making is done in Sacramento

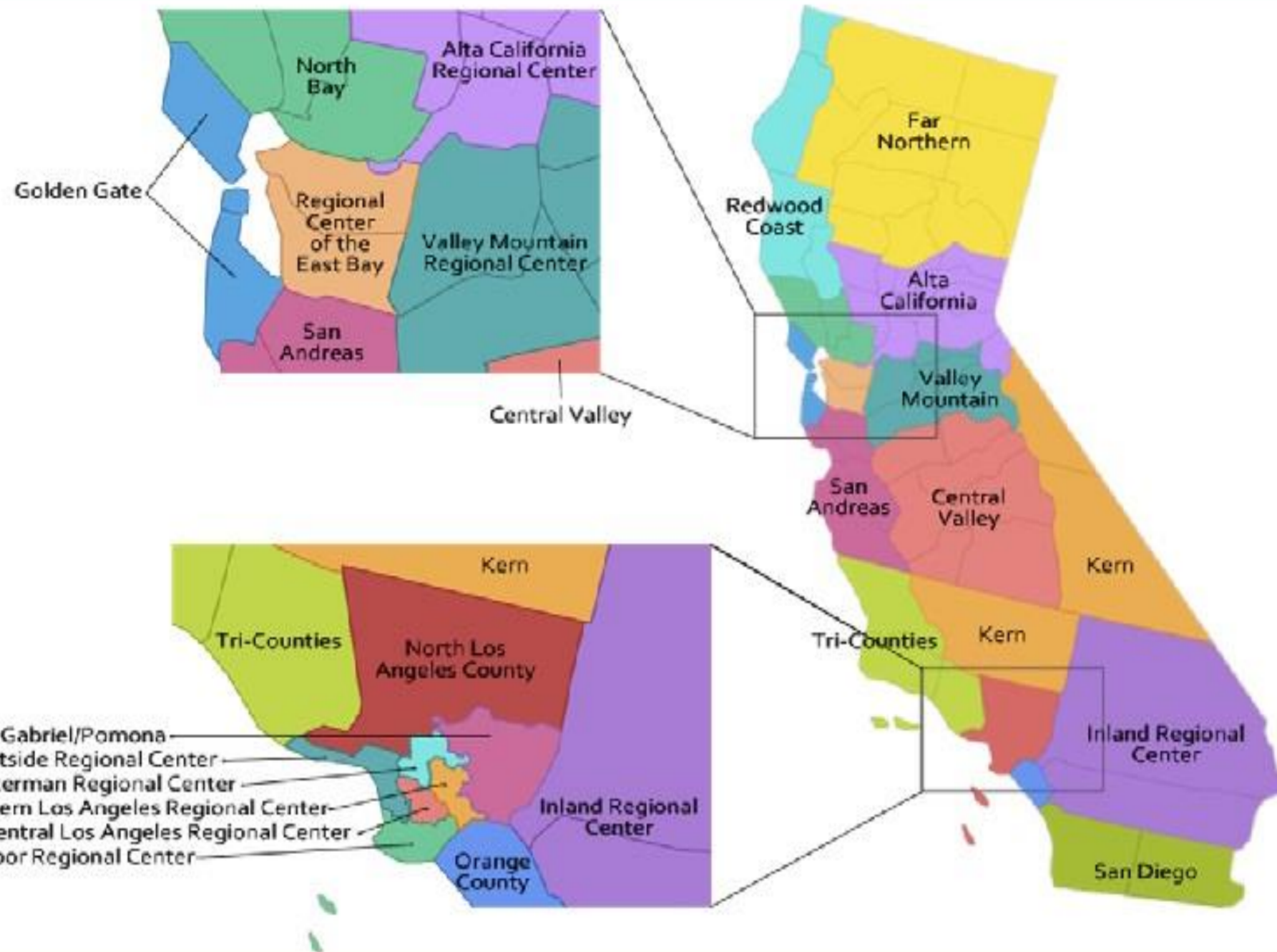
How you can (and should) get involved

The Ins and Outs of ARCA

ARCA in a Nutshell

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the twenty-one independent nonprofit regional centers in California that provide life-long services to nearly 350,000 individuals who have a developmental disability.







So...why ARCA?

There are 21 regional centers.

Regional centers were set up to represent their own areas.

This makes each regional center different.

All regional centers have to follow the same laws.

Sometimes working together makes sense.

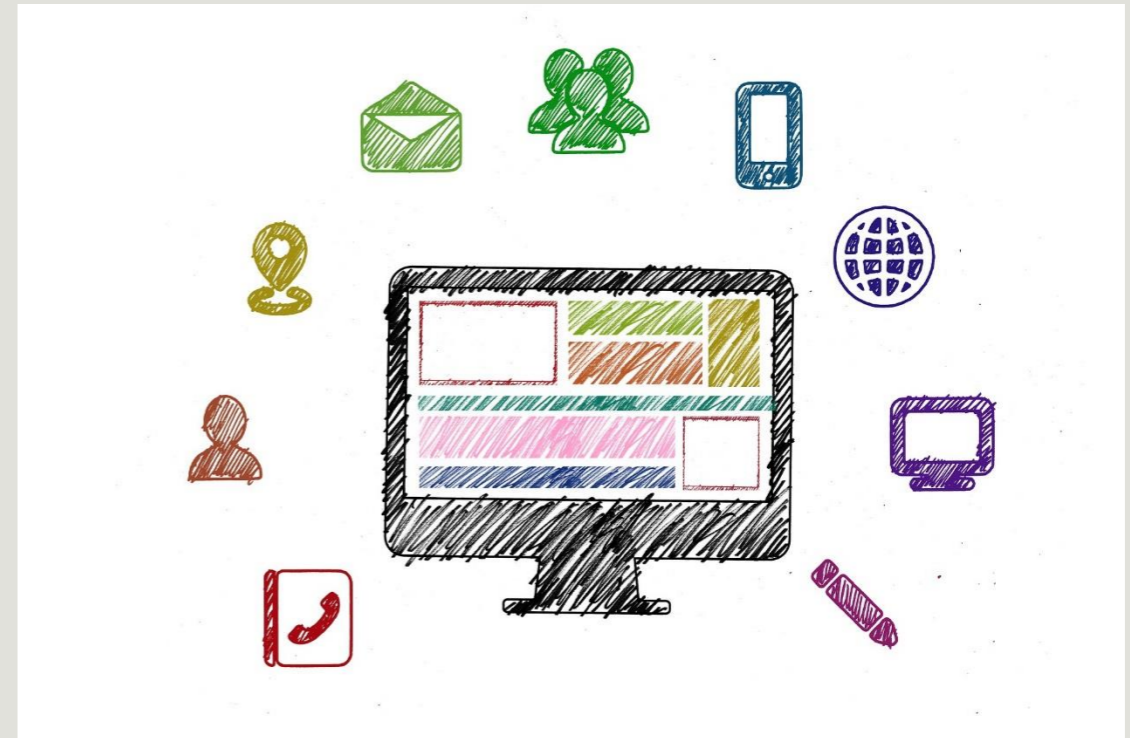
Public Messaging

Importance of service coordination;

Staff that support service coordination;

Local partnerships meeting local needs; and,

Supporting diversity through diversity.





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Issues Impacting the Whole State



Policy-Making in Sacramento

Relationships

Term limits impact long-term knowledge

Staff sometimes have more history than lawmakers

Reputations either open or close doors

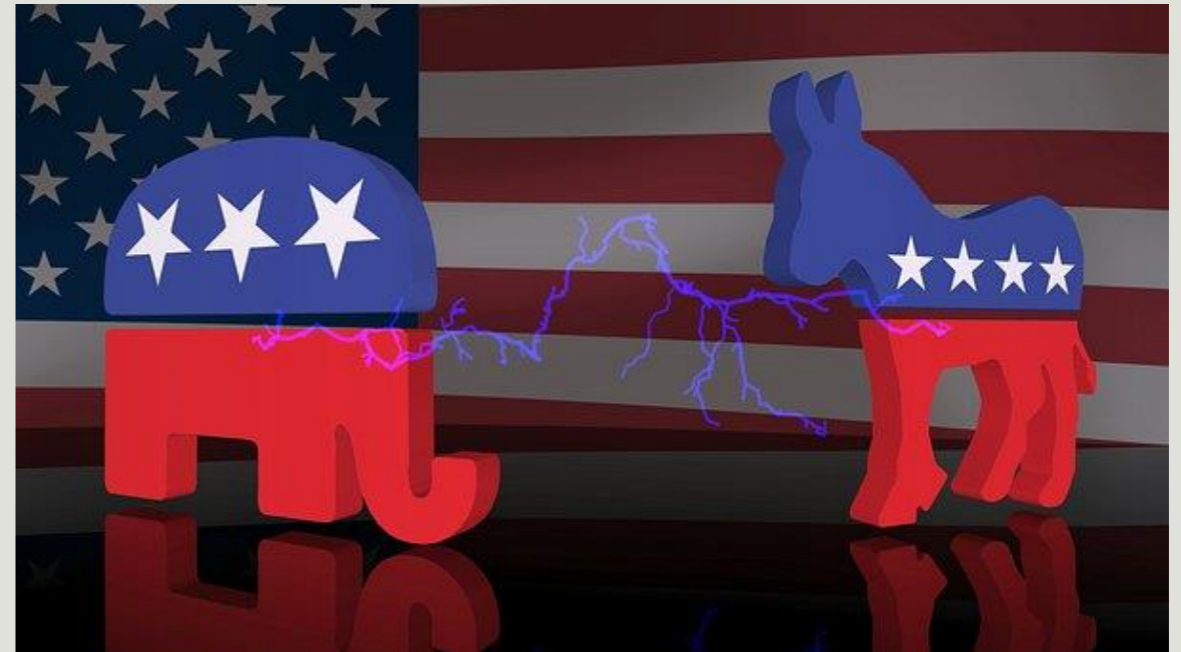


Politics

Supermajority in California

Role of the minority party

Potential problems



The Cost of Ideas

Laws can be made through either the policy or Budget process.

Lawmakers have an amount of money they can spend

Ideas that cost a lot of money are all dealt with three times per year



2019 Big Ideas

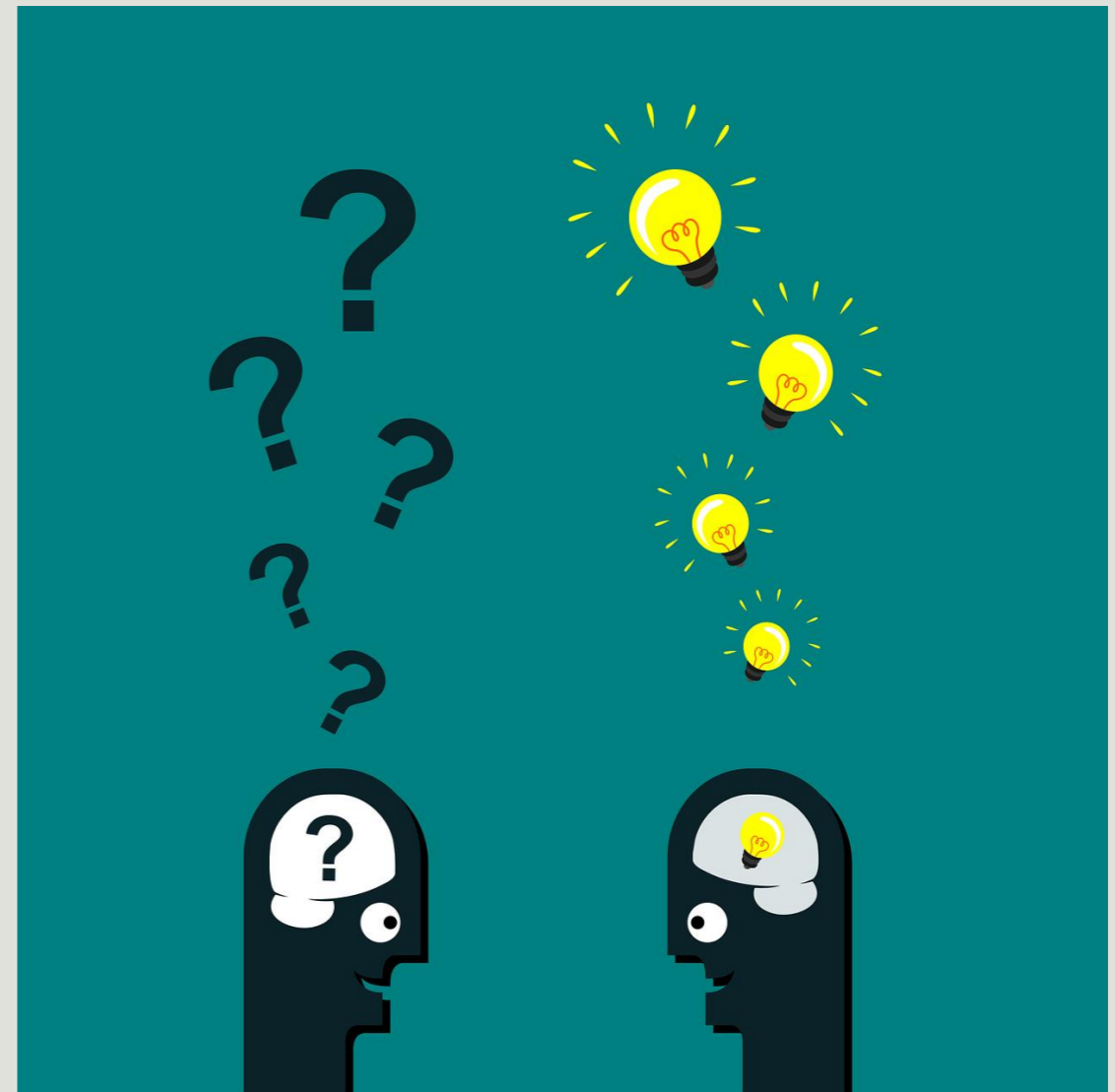
Safety Net

Transparency

System Reform

Regional Center Board
Responsibility

Funding



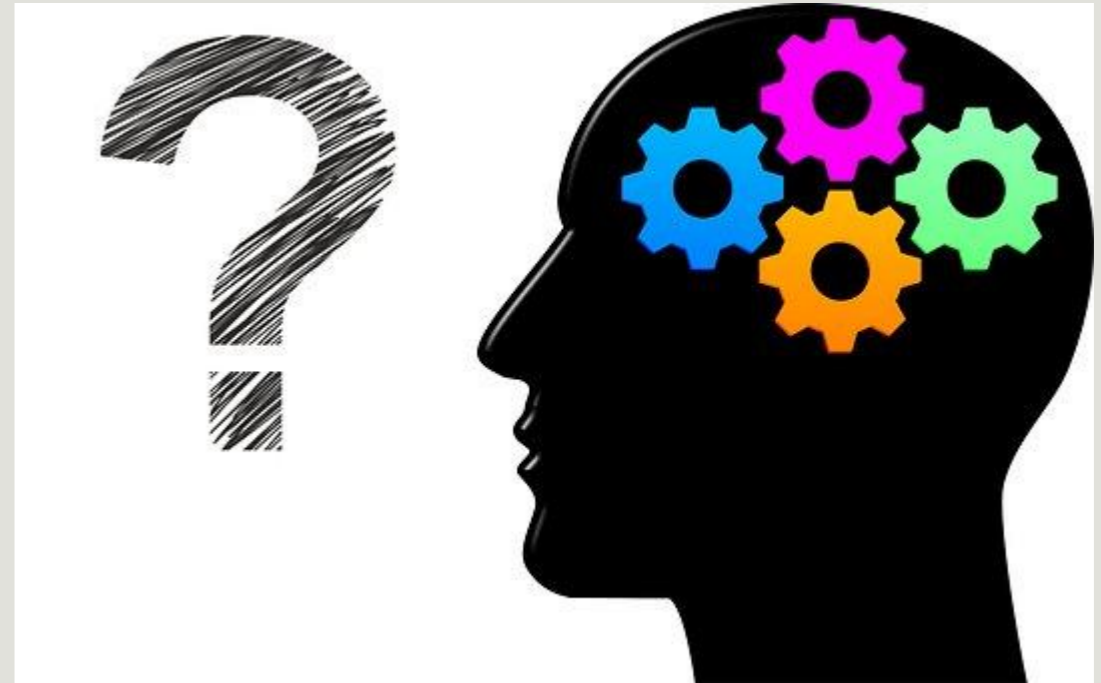
The Power of Participation

You are the Expert

Tell your story

You know your life best

Speak with passion



Straight Shooter

Tell the truth

Explain it simply

Use the short version of the story

Get to the point



Reach Out

ARCA Action Alerts
(<http://arcanet.org/legislation/>)

Phone calls

Letters/emails

Office/community visits

Hearings



Bigger Than it Seems

Most people will not get involved

Each person that does counts a lot

Start small to get comfortable

Make your voice heard



WHAT'S YOUR

STORY