

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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May 1, 2020

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL
AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) issues this letter at the request of regional centers for the purpose of providing information to entities that may serve as potential COVID-19 resources for individuals served by DDS.

Background

DDS is the state agency that oversees the coordination and delivery of services and supports to more than 350,000 Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. DDS contracts with 21 nonprofit organizations, known as regional centers, throughout the state that serve as local resources to provide case coordination, assist with accessing local generic services and fund services and supports for these individuals, most of whom live in their family homes, group homes or supported living settings. Regional centers are the essential link between DDS, the individuals we serve, and any potential resources for these individuals; and by law and in accordance with their DDS contracts, regional centers must act to secure needed services and supports for these individuals.

COVID-19 Response

As part of California's plan for protecting vulnerable citizens during the COVID-19 crisis, DDS has instituted various measures to prevent or minimize the risk of exposure to the individuals we serve, including limiting the number of individuals in congregate settings and screening placements into residential facilities. As a result of these necessary protective measures, in some areas there are a lack of safe, available housing options for individuals we serve. DDS has asked regional centers to develop and secure resources, such as temporary housing and/or alternative sites, to meet this shortage and the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in California, and DDS is making funds available to regional centers for this purpose.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

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We appreciate your efforts to develop and secure resources for the individuals we serve.

Consumers, family members, providers and potential resources should contact their local regional center with any questions regarding this Directive. Questions from regional centers should be directed to Brian Winfield at (916) 654-1569 or brian.winfield@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

NANCY BARGMANN
Director

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