

FAQs

1. What diagnoses qualify for IRC services?

Autism, Intellectual Disability, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, and 5th category which is a diagnosis similar to the impacts of Intellectual Disability.

2. Do I need to wait to go to the adult unit to request services?

No. IRC services are available for all ages based on needs and goals.

3. Why can't I stay with the same CSC?

CSCs are experts in a specific age group and geographic area. An IRC client will typically change CSCs when they transition from one age group to another such as ages 15-16, 23-24, and upon becoming of senior age.

4. Why are you coming to my house to have a meeting?

We would like to take every step to see our families and consumers, as well as their living environment. We also would like families to feel as comfortable as possible with their CSC. Meeting in the home will help your CSC update the client's information and make sure you are receiving the services and supports needed.

5. Why do you want to meet in person?

We would like to get to know our consumers and families on a personal level and have face to face interaction if possible as the covid pandemic has prevented that in several ways. Meeting in person will allow your CSC to identify the client and family needs.

6. Why aren't we meeting at my child's school or job?

We can also meet at your child's school or job but, if possible, we would like to see the living environment of the consumer and family. Meeting in the home will also allow the child and the family to be in the most comfortable and natural setting.

7. What is the age for eligibility for IRC services?

An application for IRC services can be submitted at any age as long as the qualifying diagnosis was determined during the developmental years: birth to under age 18.

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8. Does being told “no” by IRC for eligibility mean it’s no forever?

No. There is a process of appeals that can be initiated by the applicant’s parent or legal guardian, or the applicant if he or she is 18 years or older. The appeal process will provide the opportunity to have the decision reconsidered in an informal meeting, in mediation, or in a fair hearing.

9. Are IRC services considered public charge?

No. <https://www.rcocdd.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CHHS-Public-Charge-Guide-FINAL-9.10.2019-Accessible-Version.pdf>

10. Does ADHD qualify as 5th category?

No. ADHD is a behavioral health diagnosis and is not a qualifying diagnosis in the Lanterman Act. If ADHD is accompanied by a qualifying diagnosis in the Lanterman Act, the child may be eligible for IRC services.

11. What are the three areas of deficit required to qualify for IRC services?

In order to receive IRC services, the applicant must have at least one of the qualifying diagnoses and must also have a substantial disability or a significant functional limitation in three or more of the following areas of life:

- Self-care
- Receptive and expressive language
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction
- Capacity for independent living
- Economic self-sufficiency

12. Why do different RCs fund different services?

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Regional Centers provide services through contracted vendors. The available services for consumers rely on the programs that vendors provide in the catchment area of each regional center.

13. My child was found eligible for IRC services; however, my other child's case was denied. Why was my child's case denied?

Your child might not qualify because he or she may only have one or two limitations in the areas of life (please see question #11). Your child might not qualify now but may qualify when he or she is older and or if the child shows significant limitations in three or more areas of their life.

14. What is the difference between Early Start services and Lanterman Act services?

The difference is developmental delay for Early Start versus developmental disability for Lanterman Act Services. Early Start services are early intervention services for children 0-36 months that have 33% eligibility criteria for a developmental delay in the areas of: cognition, communication, fine/gross motor, social emotional or adaptive self-help skills. Lanterman Act services are for regional center consumers with a developmental disability in the areas of intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or a 5th category.

15. Does my child need a diagnosis before applying for services?

Yes, IRC needs a documented diagnosis or a suspicion of a diagnosis.

16. Why does my child's IEP state "autistic like behaviors" instead of Autism as a diagnosis?

Some school Psychologists are not licensed to diagnose, therefore, they use "autistic like behaviors" in their reports.

17. Why do I have to request services from my child's school and or my health insurance before requesting it from IRC?

The law states that the regional center is the payer of last resort; therefore, needed services must be explored through the health insurance, the school, and generic resources prior to IRC funding a service.

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18. Why does my friend's child get more services than my child?

Services are person-centered and driven by the clients' individual needs and goals. Parents/guardians are encouraged to share their child's needs and goals with their CSC to explore the services available that may help address and support such needs and goals.

19. What are some common services provided by IRC?

In-home and Out-of-Home Respite (age 4 and up), Day Programs (adults only), Specialized Transportation (all ages), Durable Medical Equipment (all ages), Employment Programs (adults only), Supported and Independent Living Services (adults only), Health Care Facilities and Residential Care Homes (all ages), Infant Development Services (ages 0-3).

20. Do parents/guardians have to provide their social security number when applying for IRC services for their child?

No. As of August 31, 2021, Assembly Bill No. 445 removed the requirement to collect the social security number of the parents/guardians of the consumer.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB445