

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1215 O Street, MS 9-70
Sacramento, CA 95814
TTY: 711
(833) 421-0061



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TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REGIONAL CENTER PERFORMANCE MEASURES – EARLY START,
CHILD FIND AND IDENTIFICATION

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) worked with the Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM) Workgroup consisting of representatives from all aspects of the developmental disabilities services system to develop performance incentives and measures to promote improvements in consumer outcomes and regional center performance. This voluntary RCPM program has six focus areas identified by the Workgroup, including: Early Start, Employment, Equity and Cultural Competency, Individual and Family Experience and Satisfaction, Person-Centered Services Planning, and Service Coordination and Regional Center Operations. Each focus area has one or more performance measures tied to specific desired outcomes, with corresponding performance targets and incentives.

Overview

The purpose of this directive is to provide information regarding the Child Find and Identification measure in the Early Start focus area of the RCPM program. Full descriptions of the focus areas, measures and incentives can be found [here](#). Each performance measure and incentive is an opportunity for regional centers to demonstrate performance above the minimum expectations established through statute or regulation. While participation in the program is voluntary, all regional centers are encouraged to provide high quality service that is responsive to the priorities established by the statewide stakeholder Workgroup. The performance measures addressed in this directive are:

- **Measure 1:** Regional center submits a Child Find Plan and works with the Department to establish a reporting structure that will be used by all regional centers to report on measures and the types of outreach/child find activities supported by regional center staff or funding.
- **Measure 2:** Number of children identified in proportion to the total number of children, birth through age two in the county, or zip code, reported by language, race and ethnicity.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

The incentive associated with this measure is recognition given to the regional center, as described below.

Performance Measures and Desired Outcome

The desired outcome of these measures is to identify children who are eligible for Early Start and to enroll them in a timely manner. The Department will work closely with regional centers to report on these measures. Using the data originally reported by regional centers, the Department will assist with public reporting of these measures. Regional centers will report on child find activities annually, and the Department will calculate and measure the number of children identified in proportion to the total number of children, birth through age two, in the county, or zip code, reported by language, race, and ethnicity.

Performance Measures Data

Measure 1

To meet the requirements of Measure 1, regional centers will submit a Child Find Plan for their catchment area by completing and submitting the Enclosure to the Department by April 1, 2023. In the Child Find Plan, the regional center will identify how it intends to address and target the underserved populations prioritized in the federal code for Early Intervention as defined in 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 303.302(b), including: unhoused children and families, children in foster care, and Native American children and families who reside on tribal lands.

As described in the Enclosure, at minimum, the Child Find Plan must include:

- Referral sources for all counties in the regional center's catchment area including referral agency type.
- Referral sources that will be the priority for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 reporting period and the basis for prioritization.
- Priority for child find activities (birth through age one, birth through age two) for FY 2023-24.
- If the primary referral sources assist the regional center in targeting underserved populations.
- Child find activities that will be completed in the reporting period.
- Confirmation that all counties/zip codes in the catchment area are incorporated in the plan.

Measure 2

To meet the requirements of Measure 2, the Department will continue to publish the targeted number of children ages birth through age one and birth through age two who have been determined eligible for Early Start services and have an Individualized Family Service Plan. The Department will report on the targeted percentage of children

expected to be served, and the actual number served by the regional center, annually. These measures will continue to be reported through the Annual Performance Indicators 5 and 6 in the Early Start Local Performance Report, found [here](#). In addition, the Department will provide regional center specific reports on this data with county or zip code identified for each child served, reported by language, race and ethnicity to further support a targeted plan for child find.

Incentive

The first year of the Child Find and Identification measure (FY 2022-23) will establish the baseline for reporting on activities undertaken to carry out child find and the results of identification activities. Subsequent years will result in a recognition of performance through posting on the Department's website. Regional centers are encouraged to include the same information and a copy of the Child Find Plan and Early Start performance data on their website by June 1, 2023, to inform its stakeholder community of the efforts underway to assure all children eligible to receive Early Start services are identified and enrolled at the earliest opportunity to realize the maximum benefits of the program.

Details of incentive types for subsequent phases of this measure will be provided in future directives from the Department. If you have any questions regarding the RCPM or the Early Start focus area, please email RCMeasures@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Nancy Bargmann, Department of Developmental Services
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services
Pete Cervinka, Department of Developmental Services
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services
Leslie Morrison, Department of Developmental Services
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services