## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CENTER (OLDER CHILD)

*Disclaimer: This document represents the knowledge and practice of the individual that completed this FAQ*

1. **What is the Intake process to determine eligibility at the California Regional Centers?**
   **CA Department of Developmental Services, www.dds.ca.gov/rc**
   **San Diego Regional Center, www.sdrc.org**

   Regional Center eligibility criteria are defined by law, in Section 4512 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code. Diagnoses that may qualify a person for Regional Center services include the following developmental disabilities: Autism**,** Cerebral Palsy**,** Intellectual Disability**,** Epilepsy, and conditions closely related to, or that require treatment similar to, that required for an intellectual disability.  In addition, to qualify for Regional Center services, a person's developmental disability must: originate prior to age 18**,** be expected to continue indefinitely**,** and constitute a substantial disability (meaning the person experiences significant limitations in three or more of the following areas: self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency). The law states that learning disabilities, or disabilities that are solely psychiatric or physical in nature, are **not** included in the definition of developmental disabilities.

   Primary Care Physicians can assist in the intake process by providing a letter to the family prior to the process so they can include it in the intake inquiry. The letter can state the concerns for suspicion of a developmental disability, such as ASD.

   If the applicant is found eligible for services, a Service Coordinator will be assigned to begin the service planning process. A list of potential services can be obtained on the San Diego Regional Center website. Families will be required to use generic resources for services when these are available.

   Contact San Diego Intake at 858-576-2938, intake@sdrc.org ; Imperial Valley Intake at 760-355-8383, imperialintake@sdrc.org.  See addition information at www.sdrc.org .

2. **What might an assessment for developmental disabilities, such as autism spectrum disorder, include?**
   Evaluations through Regional Centers generally include cognitive or intelligence testing (e.g., Bayley, WPPSI, WISC, etc.), an adaptive measure (e.g., Vineland) and testing for autism (e.g., ADOS, CARS, etc.). The Regional Center evaluations are mainly for the purpose of eligibility. If insurance funding is available, consider using other options, such as Rady Children's Hospital, to conduct developmental assessments.  Assessments through the community may be more comprehensive and be more thorough for situations with several differential diagnoses.

3. **What are some resources related to Developmental Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder?**

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| www.dds.ca.gov | Department of Developmental Services (Regional Centers) |
| www.sdrc.org | San Diego Regional Center<br>BHT Services Brochures—Resources /Behavioral Health Services<br>www.sdrc.org/resources<br>Eligibility Brochures—Reports/Publications/Eligibility<br>www.sdrc.org/reports |
| www.dhcs.ca.gov | Department of Health Care Services (Medi-Cal) |
| https://efrconline.org | Exceptional Family Resource Center |
| www.captain.ca.gov | California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN)<br>Evidenced Based Practices |
| https://ncaep.fpg.unc.edu | National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice, EBPs 2020 |

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| | https://ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/sites/ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/files/imce/documents/EBP%20Report%202020.pdf |
| www.autism-society.org | Autism Society of America |
| www.autismspeaks.org | Autism Speaks<br>https://www.autismspeaks.org/newly-diagnosed<br>https://www.autismspeaks.org/press-release/cdc-estimate-autism-prevalence-increases-nearly-10-percent-1-54-children-us |
| https://asic.love | Autism Support of Imperial County |
| https://www.cdc.gov | Center for Disease Control and Prevention |
| www.health.ucdavis.edu | Mind Institute, UC Davis, Autism Center of Excellence |
| https://www.nationalautismcenter.org | National Autism Center<br>https://www.nationalautismcenter.org/resources/autism-a-closer-look |
| https://www.nfar.org | National Foundation for Autism Research |
| https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml | National Institute of Mental Health |
| https://researchautism.org | Organization for Autism Research<br>UCSD, Autism Center of Excellence |
| https://neurosciences.ucsd.edu/centers-programs/autism/index.html | |