

What are the Differences between the Traditional Regional Center System and the New Self-Determination Program?

	Traditional Regional Center Services	Self-Determination Program
What are the ages to be eligible?	All ages	Everyone over age 3. Under age 3 must be eligible for Lanterman Act services (not Early Start)
Where do the services need to take place?	All settings (until March 2023 when new rules go into effect that are the same as the SDP)	Must live, work, and receive all services in the community. Can use SDP in more restrictive settings if you are expected to move to the community within 90 days
What is the planning process?	Individual Program Plan (IPP) - Meeting where goals are established and services and supports are decided	Person Centered Plan (PCP) – Directed by the person to the best of their abilities, a planning process where a group of people chosen by the person helps them to think about their vision for their future. The process usually leads to a Person-Centered Plan, which informs the development of the IPP, individual budget, and the spending plan.
How often do you need to plan?	IPP at least every three years, annually at most regional centers, or within 30 days of a request	PCP at least annually but as often as needed. Still hold IPPs with service coordinator at regional center.
Who decides what services and who provides them?	Regional Center and IPP Team	Participants and/or their families
Who pays the bills?	Regional Center	Financial Management Service (FMS)
Responsibilities of traditional consumers vs SDP participants	Participate in IPPs; Request services from among those regional center offers; Once regional center approves services, select from among vendored (contracted) service providers offered.	Attend orientation; Create a Person-Centered Plan or process with from a regional center-funded planner; with help from regional center-funded transition supports, negotiate an individual budget with the regional center, identify services, items, and activities, and design a spending plan estimating amounts for services; Work with a financial management service (FMS) to stay within budgets; hire and supervise chosen staff and agencies.

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Do services have to be provided by vendors of the regional center?	Yes, except in very limited circumstances	No, except for the FMS
Who finds the service providers?	Regional Center	Participant, Family, Independent Facilitator, Financial Management Services, Friends, Circle of Support, etc.
Who monitors the quality of a service provider?	Regional Center	Participants and families with assistance of facilitator evaluate quality of services.
What kind of services can be arranged?	Subject to restrictions of the legislature and preferences of regional center.	Must be services approved by federal government, which includes a wide range of services from acupuncture to housekeeping to art classes. Also all services must comply with the new federal settings rules and be integrated in the community.
Is there a requirement to use generic resources to pay first, such as schools and Medi-Cal?	Yes	Yes
Can you change service providers?	Yes, if regional center agrees	Yes
What if I disagree with the regional center, do I have appeal rights?	Yes	Yes