

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 240, MS 2-13
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1897



September 23, 2019

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: 88th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT THE STATE CAPITOL –
REQUEST FOR ORNAMENTS

For more than two decades, individuals who have a developmental disability have created ornaments to adorn the Christmas tree at the State Capitol. In recent years, we have received hundreds of ornaments from regional center community art programs. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been asked again to participate in the official State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony, and we are requesting ornaments from the community.

The tree lighting ceremony will take place the first week of December. As in previous years, a child with a developmental disability will participate in the ceremony and place an ornament onto the tree during an evening ceremony with Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom.

We encourage regional centers to work with their communities to create and send ornaments that reflect the cultural diversity of California and celebrate holiday traditions from the Golden State and around the world. Some examples of themes include Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

To be included on the tree, all ornaments must be received at DDS headquarters by Friday, November 8, 2019. Enclosed are guidelines and suggestions for ornaments and a shipping form that must be included with the ornaments. If you have questions, please contact Ali Bay, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, at (916) 654-1884 or ali.bay@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosures

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Chief Counselors
Regional Center Directors of Community Services
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Nancy Bargmann, DDS
Ali Bay, DDS

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”