



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Director's Report
January 2026

1. NLACRC Spotlight:

A. Recruiting Efficiency Gains

- i. NLACRC has focused on streamlining recruiting metrics and processes to ensure timely and consistent communication with all candidates.
- ii. These efforts have reduced end-to-end hiring timelines for all roles to an average of 75 days, down from 717 days in January 2025, with Service Coordinator hiring now averaging 51 days.
- iii. The goal is to continue progressing toward the industry average of 45 days, reflecting a highly streamlined process while accounting for hiring stages outside NLACRC's control, such as background checks.

2. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Updates:

A. Operations (OPS) Funding and Survey

- i. DDS plans to conduct a time-sensitive survey of regional centers to assess whether current Operations (OPS) funding is sufficient to cover staffing, benefits, rent, and other administrative costs.
- ii. Approximately \$30 million statewide may be available for allocation; however, some funds are restricted for specific purposes such as rent or performance measures.
- iii. DDS has emphasized the need for rapid data submission. Some potential funding solutions may rely on prior-year funds that will revert if not claimed by mid-March, creating timing risk.

B. Transportation Rate Updates (Minimal Fiscal Impact Expected)

- i. DDS finalized updates to several transportation service codes, with changes taking effect between February 1 and March 1, 2026.
- ii. DDS has stated that these changes are expected to have little to no overall financial impact on regional centers based on current usage patterns.
- iii. NLACRC will monitor implementation to ensure vendor practices align with the new rate structure.

C. Remote Services and Future Policy Considerations

- i. DDS is required to submit a report to the Legislature in May regarding the use of remote services and remote planning meetings, such as virtual IPP meetings.
- ii. The current authority allowing remote services through DDS directives expires at the end of 2026. DDS plans to introduce placeholder budget language this year to keep the issue active for future consideration.
- iii. While there is no immediate financial impact, this issue may affect future delivery models and administrative requirements.

D. Self-Determination Program (SDP): Forward Look

- i. DDS has indicated that FY 2025-26 is expected to be the final year of Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) funding, though advisory committees will continue.
- ii. The federal waiver that allows California to operate the Self-Determination Program expires June 30, 2026. DDS plans to release a draft renewal for public comment in February and submit it to the federal government by April 1.
- iii. The renewal is expected to include updated Fiscal Management Services (FMS) standards and an updated methodology for individual budget calculations, which may increase administrative requirements.
- iv. DDS will also release a proposal for public comment that would designate the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) as the sole entity authorized to conduct SDP orientations.

3. Legislative Updates:

A. Budget Update: Timing and Risk Considerations

- i. The California Department of Finance (DOF), which develops the Governor's Budget, will release proposed Trailer Bill Language (TBL) on February 1, 2026. Trailer bills are the policy changes that accompany the budget and explain how funding is implemented.
- ii. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee that oversees health and human services, including DDS, will hold its main hearing on April 15, which is later than usual and further compresses the window for budget discussions and potential changes.

4. Center Updates:

A. Recruitment

- i. Total # of positions filled: 927
- ii. Total # of authorized positions: 1035
- iii. January 2026 New Hires
 1. 1st Cycle (1/12/2026): 8 unconfirmed
 2. 2nd Cycle (1/26/2026): 1 unconfirmed

B. Consumer Statistics:

- i. Total Served: 41,090
 1. Early Start: 5,009
 2. Lanterman: 33,681
- ii. Breakdown of all three valleys:
 1. AV (Early Start & Lanterman): 9,821
 2. SCV (Early Start & Lanterman): 4,566
 3. SFV (Early Start & Lanterman): 24,303

- iii. Intake all three valleys: 719 & Early Start Intake: 314
- iv. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other categories which would total: 1,367

5. Outreach:

A. Armenian Parent Circle of Support – Armenian Christmas Celebration

- i. On January 8, 2026, NLACRC's Armenian Parent Circle of Support hosted an Armenian Christmas celebration at the SFV office, attended by 23 families.
- ii. The event included cultural activities, a visit from Senator Menjivar, participation from Executive Leadership, case management leadership, and a DEIB-hosted resource table.

B. Bloom Mama Workshop

- i. On January 16, 2026, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) staff participated in the Bloom Mama Workshop in Palmdale with community partners, including All for Kids and Best Start.
- ii. Staff shared information on Regional Center services, eligibility, and Early Start with new and expecting parents, strengthening outreach in the Antelope Valley.

C. CTC Campus Connect – Lowman

- i. On January 12, 2026, DEIB staff participated in a Campus Connect event at Lowman Special Education Career and Transition Center in North Hollywood.
- ii. Campus Connect provides monthly outreach at local Career and Transition Centers (CTCs) to support families with questions about Regional Center services, eligibility, and post-high school planning.

6. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities

- A.** State Council on Developmental Disabilities: Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) meeting—February 17, 2026
- B.** Disability Rights California's next board meeting—March 19, 2026
- C.** Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting—February 19, 2026