

# DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Early Start



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT RENEWAL

STATE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

February 24, 2022

# EARLY START OVERVIEW

## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- First Passed in 1975
- Part C

## California's Early Intervention Services Act

- Implemented in 1993 in California
- Response to Federal Legislation

## Designed to:

- Enhance the family's capability to meet the special developmental needs of their infant or toddler
- Maximize the potential for children to be effective in context of daily life and activities



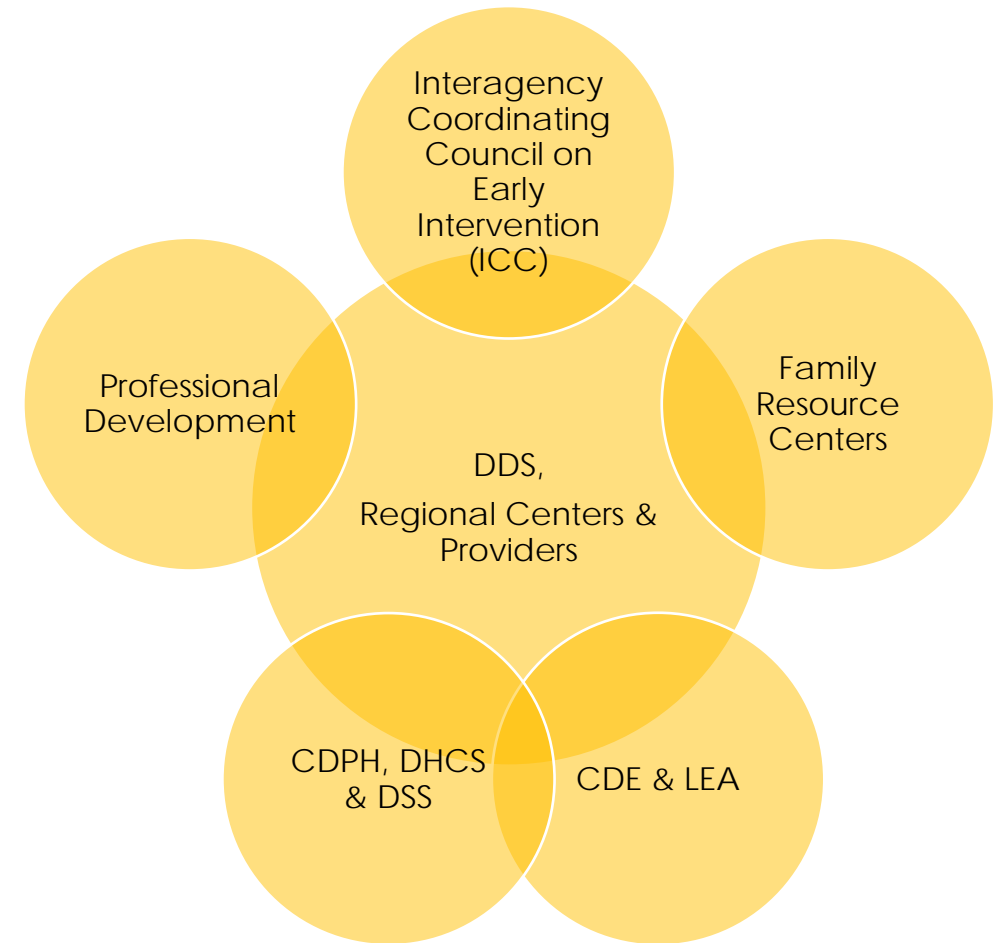
# EARLY START OVERVIEW (continued)

## Program Administration:

- Regional Center
- Local Educational Agencies (LEA)

## Collaboration:

- Support and assistance from other parents to help navigate the system
- Professional development for training and technical assistance



# THE STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) ON EARLY INTERVENTION

**Governor Appointed Members include parents, early intervention service providers, health care professionals, and agencies including:**

- California Department of Education
- California Department of Public Health
- California Health & Human Services Agency
- Department of Managed Health Care
- Department of Social Services
- Indian Health Service
- Head Start

# EARLY START OVERVIEW (continued)

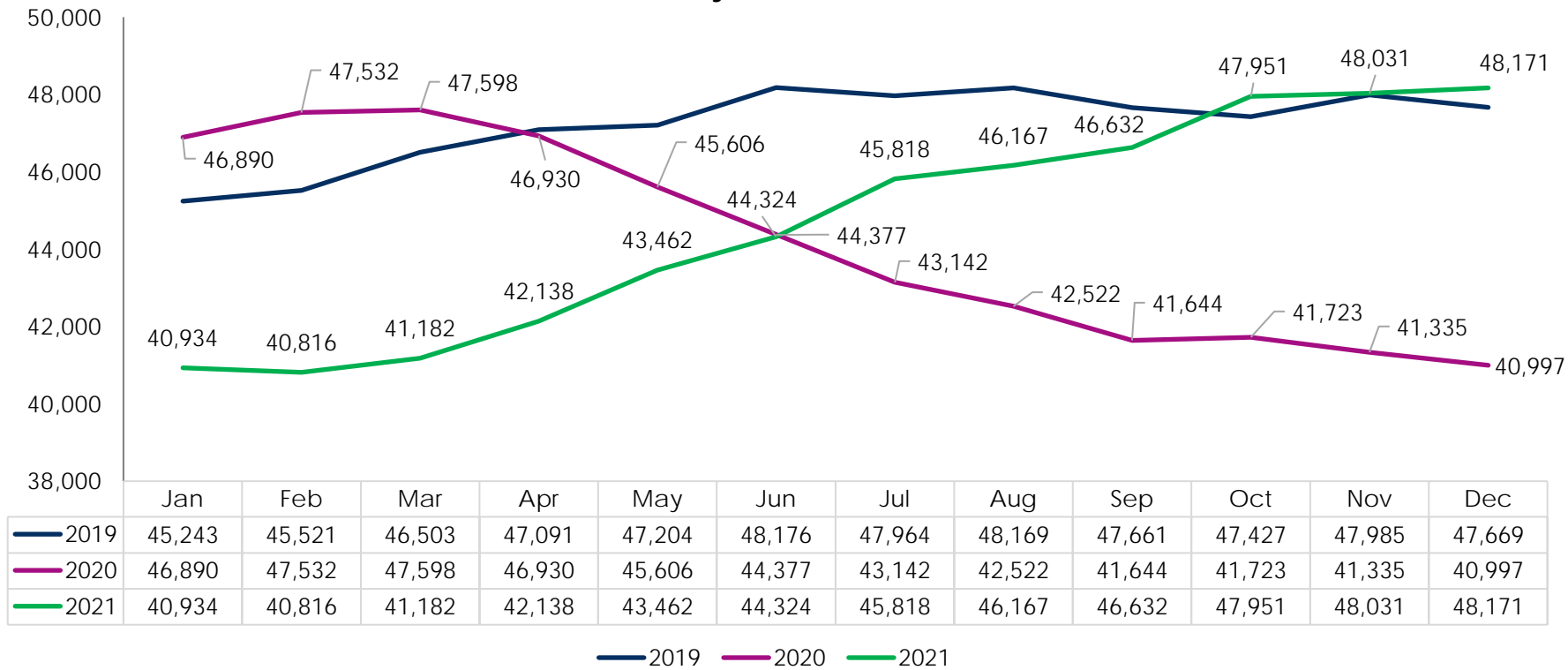
## Early Start Services:

- Service Coordination
- Assistive Technology
- Family Training/Counseling, Social Work
- Health, Medical, Nursing, Nutrition, Psychological Services
- Vision, Sign Language & Cued Language
- Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology
- Special Instruction
- Transportation

# EARLY START CASE COUNT UPDATE

Early Start cases from 0-35 months were up by 18% in December 2021 compared to December 2020

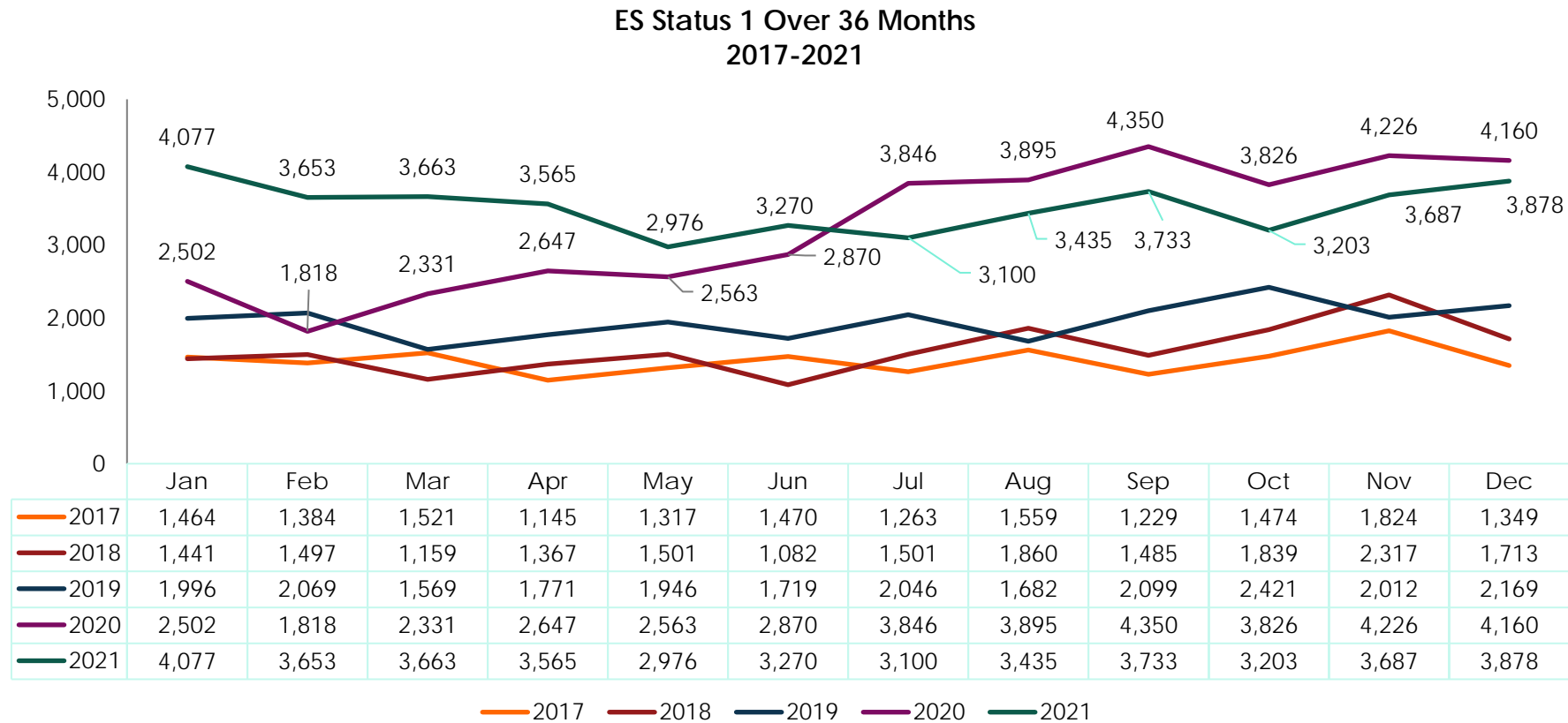
Status 1 <36 Months & Status 2  
January 2019 - December 2021



Status 1: Child is in the Early Start program  
Status 2: Child is additionally eligible for Lanterman services

# EARLY START CASE COUNT UPDATE

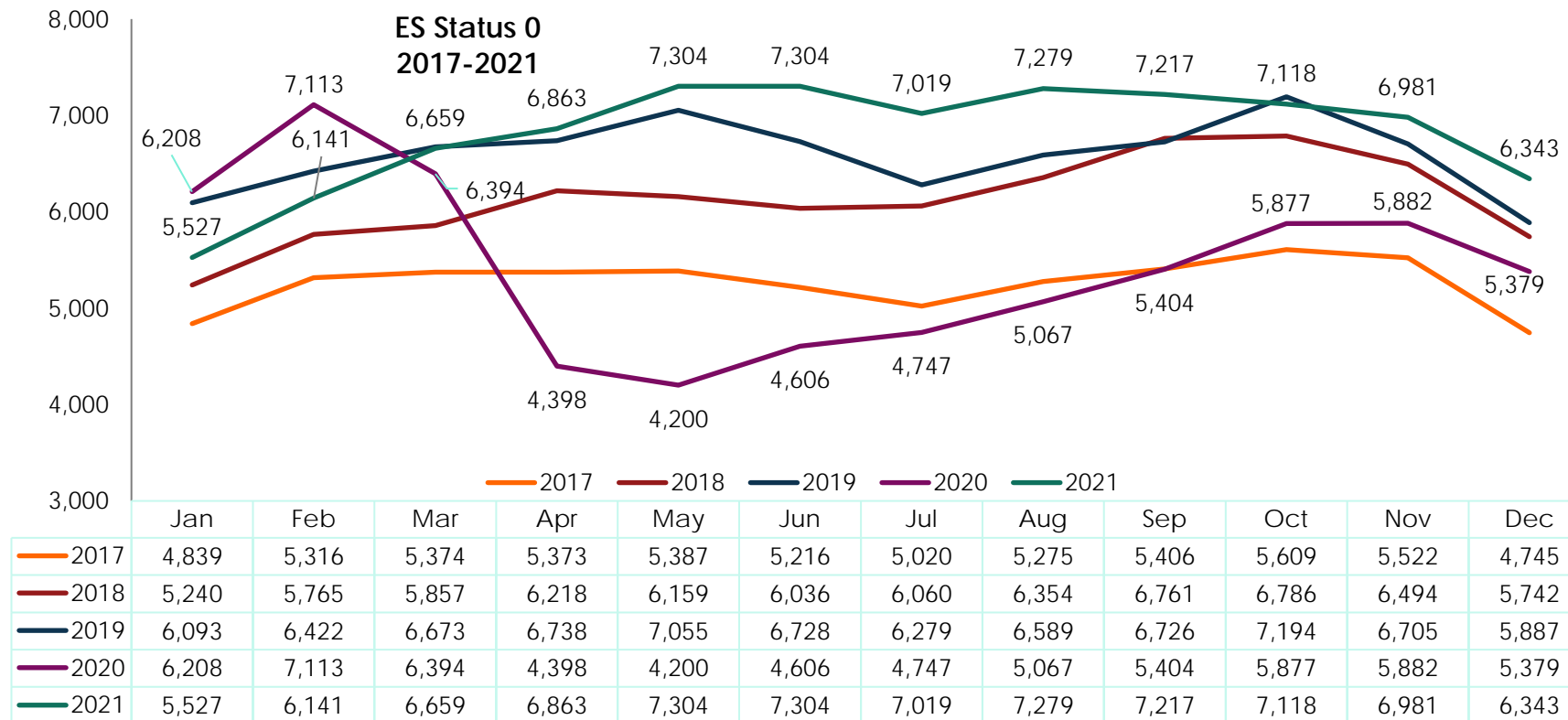
Early Start cases for children over 3 years old were 7% lower in December 2021 than December 2020



Status 1: Child is in the Early Start program

# STATUS 0 CASES EARLY START REFERRALS

For December 2021, the number of referrals was 18% higher than December 2020



Status 0: Child is referred for assessment and evaluation to verify eligibility for Early Start



# Overview of Budget Initiatives For Early Start



# PRIORITIES

SERVICE  
ACCESS &  
EQUITY

CONNECTING  
CHILDREN &  
FAMILIES TO  
SERVICES

PART C TO B  
TRANSITIONS

PATHWAYS  
FOR  
NAVIGATING  
SYSTEMS  
EARLY ON IN  
LIFE

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) UPDATE

## Home and Community-Based Services Spending Plan, \$1.6B Total Funds through March 2024:

- Rate Model Implementation \$1.4B
- Social Recreation & Camp Services \$121.1M
- Language Access & Cultural Competency \$45.8M
- Coordinated Family Supports \$41.7M (Pilot)
- Enhanced Community Integration for Children & Adolescents \$12.5M (Grant)
- Information Technology Modernization \$7.5M (Planning)



# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) UPDATE (continued)

## Early Start Part C, \$24M through January 2024

- Family Wellness \$7.0M (Pilot)
  - *Pilot supports to help parents cope with the stress associated with their child's recent diagnosis of a developmental disability*
- Develop Culturally & Linguistically Sensitive Services \$4.5M
  - *Training to providers to enhance participant outcomes such as implicit bias, adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress, and reflective supervision training.*
  - *Scholarship and education stipend program to increase the availability of a provider network that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community.*

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) UPDATE (continued)

## Early Start Part C, \$24M through January 2024 (continued)

- Outreach \$4.2M
  - *Grant program for targeted and culturally sensitive outreach*
  - *Pilot a partnership program for counties and regional centers to train professionals and increase awareness of Early Start*
  - *Increase capacity and diversify community participation to the ICC to support outreach activities and effectiveness*

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) UPDATE (continued)

## Early Start Part C, \$24M through January 2024 (continued)

- Technology \$1.3M
  - *Develop options to facilitate family self-referrals to Early Start*
  - *Purchase early intervention assessment tools and/or expand availability of screening devices*
  - *Technology equipment to families in areas with low provider capacity for remote access to assessments and services*
- Technical Assistance & Monitoring \$0.5M (DDS – HQ)
- Initiatives in Collaboration with CDE \$6.5M

# INITIATIVES RELATED TO EARLY START IN BUDGET ACT OF 2021 (cont.)

- Enhanced Service Coordination for Low-No POS \$12.8M RC Ops
  - *Followed a project with Eastern Los Angeles Regional Centers with 1:40 ratios that began in 2017*
  - *Demonstrated lower caseload ratios positively impact service access (both generic and RC funded), strengthen trust with the RC, and improve communication and overall satisfaction with services*
  - *2022-23 Governor's Budget \$14.2M (\$1.4M increase)*
- Implicit Bias Training \$7.0M RC Ops
  - *Implicit Bias training to all regional center personnel, as well as contracted staff involved in intake and assessment and eligibility determinations*

# INITIATIVES RELATED TO EARLY START IN BUDGET ACT OF 2021 (cont.)

- Community Navigator Program \$5.3M RC Ops
  - *Establish a community navigator program using family resource centers to help families connect with services.*
  - *Funding in 2021-22 includes \$500,000 for an independent evaluation of the efforts to promote equity and reduce disparities.*
- Tribal Outreach and Engagement \$0.5M RC Ops
  - *Conduct engagement and outreach with tribal communities to improve access and utilization of Early Start services.*



# INITIATIVES RELATED TO EARLY START IN BUDGET ACT OF 2021 (cont.)

- Regional Center Performance Indicators and Benchmarks \$3.7M RC Ops, \$1.9 M HQ
  - *Convene a workgroup to make recommendations for the development of standard performance improvement indicators and benchmarks to incentivize high-quality regional center operations.*
  - *\$87.5 M RC beginning FY 2022-23 for Service Coordinators & caseload ratio reduction*
  - *2022-23 Governor's Budget \$87.5M (\$83.8M increase)*

## AREA 1

Equity in  
Service  
Access

## AREA 2

Person-  
Centered  
Planning

## AREA 3

Consumer &  
Family  
Experience  
&  
Satisfaction

## AREA 4

Innovation in  
Service  
Availability  
& Delivery

## AREA 5

Community  
Inclusion

# INITIATIVES RELATED TO EARLY START IN BUDGET ACT OF 2021 (cont.)

- Services for the Deaf Community \$3.7M RC Ops, \$1.9M HQ
  - *Provide increased expertise at the department and all regional centers to support services, and improve access and equity, for consumers who are deaf*
  - *Deaf Specialist at DDS to provide statewide leadership and subject matter expertise*
  - *21 Deaf Access Specialists at Regional Centers to coordinate and lead activities to expand local resources for services*
  
  - *2022-23 Governor's Budget expands on this with Communications Assessments \$15M*
  - *Secure the services of assessors, develop or identify assessment tools, and perform communications assessments for individuals served by regional centers who are deaf*
  - *Part of a larger efforts to increase service access and equity with language access*

# INITIATIVES RELATED TO EARLY START IN BUDGET ACT OF 2021 (cont.)

- Lanterman Provisional Eligibility \$16.2M POS, \$7.6M RC Ops
  - *Established July 1, 2021*
  - *Provisional eligibility for Lanterman Act services for:*
    - *Children ages 3 and 4 who previously received Early Start services; and*
    - *Children ages 3-5 who have disabilities which result in significant functional limitations with major life activities but currently do not meet Lanterman Act eligibility criteria*
  - *2022-23 Governor's Budget \$17.4M (\$1.2M increase)*

# LANTERMAN PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY

## CHARACTERISTICS OF REGIONAL CENTER CONSUMERS WITH PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY

January 2022

CHARACTERISTIC	ALL CONSUMERS WITH PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY STATUS <sup>1</sup>		2 YEARS OLD		3 YEARS OLD		4 YEARS OLD		CONSUMERS WITH STATUS 2 WHO ARE 3 YEARS OLD <sup>2</sup>	
	NUMBER	SHARE OF TOTAL	NUMBER	SHARE OF TOTAL	NUMBER	SHARE OF TOTAL	NUMBER	SHARE OF TOTAL	NUMBER	SHARE OF TOTAL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8,706</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>GENDER</b>										
Female	390	29%	12	1%	340	26%	38	3%	2,413	28%
Male	940	71%	19	1%	851	64%	70	5%	6,293	72%
<b>ETHNICITY</b>										
Asian	137	10%	5	0%	128	10%	4	0%	751	9%
Black/African American	83	6%	0	0%	65	5%	18	1%	497	6%
Hispanic	631	47%	11	1%	568	43%	52	4%	3,901	45%
Other	250	19%	8	1%	223	17%	19	1%	2,107	24%
White	229	17%	7	1%	207	16%	15	1%	1,450	17%
<b>LANGUAGE</b>										
Chinese	5	0%	0	0%	5	0%	0	0%	51	1%
English	996	75%	26	2%	880	66%	90	7%	6,932	80%
Spanish	284	21%	3	0%	264	20%	17	1%	1,526	18%
Vietnamese	19	1%	1	0%	18	1%	0	0%	44	1%
Other	26	2%	1	0%	24	2%	1	0%	153	2%
<b>RESIDENCE TYPE</b>										
Home of parent/family/guardian	1,243	93%	29	2%	1,115	84%	99	7%	8,502	98%
Foster Home (County or State approved B Children)	87	7%	2	0%	76	6%	9	1%	195	2%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	9	0%

<sup>1</sup> Age is as of the child's entry into Status U.

<sup>2</sup> Age is as of the last day of the reporting month.

<sup>3</sup> Consumers may have more than one diagnosis.

<sup>4</sup> Includes consumers with no diagnosis.

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## Early Start

Infants and toddlers under three years of age may be eligible if one or more of the following are met:

- Have a developmental delay of at least 33% in one or more area of development;
- Have an established risk condition; or
- Are considered at high risk of having a substantial developmental disability

## Lanterman Act

All of the following must be met:

- Diagnosed with an intellectual disability, autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and/or other disability that closely resembles an intellectual disability and/or results in the individual requiring similar services to an individual with intellectual disabilities
- The disability originates prior to age 18, is expected to be lifelong and constitutes a substantial disability for the individual
- “Substantial disability” means significant functional limitations in three or more of the following areas:
  - Self-care
  - Receptive and expressive language
  - Learning
  - Mobility
  - Self-direction
  - Capacity for independent living
  - Economic self-sufficiency

## Lanterman Act Provisional Eligibility

All of the following must be met:

- Child is three or four years of age
- The disability is not solely physical in nature and the child has significant functional limitations in at least two of the following areas of major life activity:
  - Self-care
  - Receptive and expressive language
  - Learning
  - Mobility
  - Self-direction

# NEW POLICIES IN 2022-23 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

## Children's Support and Early Start Coordination, \$65.5M

- Reduced caseload ratios for children through age 5, \$51.1M
  - *Support families navigating multiple public systems where challenges may limit the benefits and outcomes of Early Start*
- Resources to increase preschool inclusion of children served by RCs, \$10.0M
  - *Increasing early childhood service providers to meet the needs of children with disabilities*
  - *Lifelong impact for families, community-wide impact*
- IDEA Technical support for service coordinators, \$3.2M
  - *Supporting RCs guiding families transitioning from Part C to B*
- DDS HQ: Coordinating and monitoring activities, \$1.2M (BCP)

*Reflects total funds for budget year*

# Questions

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For more information, please contact the  
BABYLINE: 1-800-515-BABY (2229)  
[earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)

