

Helpful terms and abbreviations

Self-Determination Program, California. Plain-language definitions. ef-if.com

024

The service code the Regional Center uses to pay for your Person-Centered Plan before you enroll.

099

The service code the Regional Center uses to pay for independent facilitation while you move into SDP.

340

The service code for independent facilitation once your program is running, paid from your budget.

Addendum

A written add-on to your IPP that records a change or a new service without rewriting the whole plan.

Annual review

The yearly meeting where your plan, your budget and your spending are looked at and reset for the next year.

Bill payer

The FMS model where the FMS only pays vendors and you employ nobody.

CDER

Client Development Evaluation Report. The Regional Center's assessment of your abilities and needs, updated at least every three years.

Certified budget

Your budget once you and the Regional Center have both signed it.

Co-employer

The FMS model where you choose and direct your staff and the FMS is the employer of record for payroll and taxes.

DDS

The California Department of Developmental Services, the state agency over all the regional centers.

Employer burden

What comes off the top of every wage for payroll taxes, workers' compensation and sick leave. Each FMS publishes its own percentage.

EVV

Electronic Visit Verification. The clock-in and clock-out record some FMS providers require for in-home hours.

Fair hearing

The appeal process when the Regional Center denies, reduces or ends a service. Deadlines run from the notice date.

FMS

Financial Management Service. The agency that pays your providers and staff from your budget and handles payroll and taxes. Its fee is paid by the Regional Center, not from your budget.

Generic resources

Services you are entitled to from somewhere other than the Regional Center, which have to be used first.

HCBS

Home and Community-Based Services. The federal rules a program has to meet to be paid for with SDP funds.

IHSS

In-Home Supportive Services. County-paid hours for help at home, counted as a generic resource.

Independent facilitator

Someone you can choose to help you plan, write, and get through the process. Optional. Paid by the Regional Center before your program starts, and from your budget after. That is what I do.

Individual budget

The amount you have for the year, based on what the Regional Center would spend on your services.

IPP

Individual Program Plan. The Regional Center's plan for you, the document every service is authorized against.

Lanterman Act

The California law that gives people with developmental disabilities the right to Regional Center services.

Natural supports

The help you get from family, friends and community that nobody is paid for.

NOA

Notice of Action. The letter the Regional Center must send when it denies, reduces or ends a service, with your appeal rights.

Participant

The person the SDP budget belongs to.

Person-Centered Plan

Your plan for your whole life, written in your words. In SDP it is where the services in your budget come from.

POS

Purchase of Service. The Regional Center's authorization to pay for a specific service.

Regional Center

One of 21 nonprofit agencies under contract with DDS that coordinate and fund services in a region of California.

SCDD

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities, which runs the SDP Orientation.

SDP

The Self-Determination Program.

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SDP Orientation

The required first step. Free, over Zoom, two parts.

Service code

The number the Regional Center attaches to each kind of service.
A sub code narrows it further.

Service coordinator

Your assigned contact at the Regional Center, sometimes called a case manager.

Sole employer

The FMS model where you are the employer of record and the FMS runs payroll for you.

Spending plan

Where the budget goes: each service, who provides it, the rate or wage, and the hours.

Supported decision maker

A person the participant chooses to help them understand choices and decide, without taking the decision away.

UCI

Unique Client Identifier. Your Regional Center case number.

Utilization

How much of an authorized service has actually been used, usually shown as a percentage of the year.

Vendor

A provider the Regional Center has approved to be paid for a service.

Workers' compensation

Insurance that covers an employee hurt on the job. Some FMS burden rates include it; others do not.