



Frequently Asked Questions about Intake

1) Who is eligible?

To be considered eligible, a disability must have originated before the age of eighteen, be likely to continue indefinitely, and constitute a substantial disability. The eligible conditions are the following:

Intellectual Disability: Intellectual disability involves impairments of general mental abilities that impact adaptive functioning in three domains, or areas. These domains determine how well an individual copes with everyday tasks:

- The conceptual domain includes skills in language, reading, writing, math, reasoning, knowledge, and memory.
- The social domain refers to empathy, social judgment, interpersonal communication skills, the ability to make and retain friendships, and similar capacities.
- The practical domain centers on self-management in areas such as personal care, job responsibilities, money management, recreation, and organizing school and work tasks.

Cerebral Palsy: A neurological condition occurring from birth or early infancy resulting in an inability to voluntarily control muscular activity, and resulting in significant deficits in motor adaptive functioning and/or cognitive abilities.

Epilepsy: A disorder of the central nervous system in which the major symptoms are seizures. Eligibility is based on a seizure disorder that is uncontrolled or poorly controlled, despite medical compliance and medical intervention.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: A syndrome characterized by impairments in social interaction (withdrawal, failure to engage in interaction with peers or adults), nonverbal communication skills, and ability to develop and maintain relationships. Individuals may engage in repetitive activities or a limited repertoire of activities.

Fifth Condition: This category includes disabling conditions found to be closely related to intellectual disability or requiring treatment similar to that required for individuals with intellectual disability.

2) What is a substantial disability?

A substantial disability is a condition which results in major impairment of cognitive and/or social functioning, representing sufficient impairment to require interdisciplinary planning and

coordination of special or generic services to assist the individual in achieving maximum potential; and must cause significant functional limitations, as determined by the regional center, in three or more of the following areas of major life activity, as appropriate to the person's age. Since an individual's cognitive and/or social functioning are many-faceted, the existence of a major impairment shall be determined through assessment(s) in the following areas of daily life activity:

- Receptive and expressive language;
- Learning;
- Self-care;
- Mobility;
- Self-direction;
- Capacity for independent living;
- Economic self-sufficiency

3) Who is able to refer/start the intake process?

A referral **MUST** be initiated by the adult applicant or legally appointed conservator or parent or legal guardian if the individual is a minor.

4) Can a person still apply if over age of 18?

Yes. An individual may apply at any age 3 and over for Lanterman eligibility. However, to be considered eligible, a disability must have originated before the age of eighteen.

5) Do regional centers provide direct therapies?

No. If there is a therapy identified in your plan, then your service coordinator will help coordinate and refer you to a generic agency or a regional center funded service, as appropriate. Generally, regional centers may not duplicate or supplement the funding of any agency which is mandated to provide service to the general public. This includes: therapies (speech, OT, PT, etc..) (W & I Code 4648).

6) Does the applicant need to be residing in the area (CA)?

Yes. The Regional Center System exists to help California families impacted by developmental disabilities find support and resources, and access lifetime services if needed. San Andreas' catchment area includes: Santa Clara County, San Benito County, Santa Cruz County, and Monterey County.

7) What is the timeline? How long does it take?

Once the Regional Center has determined that a developmental disability may be present, an initial interview is scheduled. The interview is scheduled as soon as the eligibility team can be assembled (preferably within 15 working days of the decision to assess). Information from that interview is compiled into a report. The San Andreas eligibility determination team will gather additional information from school records, physicians, psychologists, and other professionals to assist in determining whether the applicant is developmentally disabled. **San Andreas has up to 120 days from the date of the initial meeting to complete the eligibility determination.**

8) What type of information is needed for an intake?

It is helpful to bring any documentation that indicates why the person may meet eligibility criteria, these include:

- medical records
- psychological/ psychiatric evaluations
- school records such as IEP's
- report cards
- and any other relevant reports or information

9) What happens if I do not have any supporting documents?

If you do not have supporting documents, the regional center intake service coordinator will assist you with determining the best manner in which to obtain records.

10) What does it mean when we say we are a voluntary agency?

San Andreas Regional Center is not able to impose an assessment on any individual without their consent if they are over the age of 18 and are unconserved. If the individual is a minor, then their legal representative must agree on their behalf.

11) Do I need to reside in California to apply for services?

Yes. You must be a resident of the state of California to be assessed for eligibility. For San Andreas to assess, you must also be residing in our catchment area.

However, services are provided regardless of citizenship or legal residency status – individuals can be assessed for eligibility and services if they are undocumented.

12) Is income considered for eligibility purposes?

No. Income is not a factor for eligibility.

13) If the individual has been diagnosed with Autism, Intellectual Disability, Epilepsy, or Cerebral Palsy, is the individual automatically eligible for services?

No. The individual must also meet the following criteria:

- * The condition must have been present before the age of 18
- * There must be at least **three** areas of substantial functional disability.
- * The condition must be expected to be lifelong

14) Is a Learning Disability considered a developmental disability?

No. A developmental disability shall not include handicapping conditions that are solely learning disabilities. A learning disability is a condition which manifests as a significant discrepancy between estimated cognitive potential and actual level of educational performance and which is not a result of generalized mental retardation, educational or psycho-social deprivation, psychiatric disorder, or sensory loss.

15) Does the individual need to be present during the intake interview?

Yes. It is necessary for the individual applying to be present during necessary intake interviews. Their presence allows for the gathering of crucial information needed for an eligibility determination and for independent observation of interactions, functional skills, and independent verification of need.

If the individual cannot be present for the intake appointment, then it is best for you to reschedule the meeting for a day that they can be present.

16) What if I disagree with the eligibility determination?

If you are determined ineligible for services, you will be offered a meeting to discuss the decision. After the meeting or if you choose to not attend the meeting, a notification of the determination is sent to you which explains the basis of the decision. This is called a Notice of Action (NOA). You have the right to appeal the decision within 30 days of receiving the notice.

17) I have been denied in the past, can I reapply?

Yes. You may reapply for an eligibility redetermination with the provision of new documentation that supports the existence of a developmental disability before the age of 18.

18) Do we provide emergency evaluations and determinations?

No. We are unable to perform emergency assessments.

19) Is a mental health disorder a qualifying condition?

No. Regulations specifically exclude handicapping conditions which are solely psychiatric disorders, solely learning disabilities, or solely physical in nature.

20) Do test scores from IEPs, Mental Health Reports, or other such information alone determine if an individual is eligible?

No. Test scores are only one aspect of the comprehensive assessment and evaluation performed during the intake process.

21) What if I cannot go to the regional center because of my disability?

If you cannot go to the regional center's offices because of your disability, then the regional center will accommodate to meet your needs on an individual basis.