

# *Intake & Eligibility: How One Becomes Eligible*

Board of Directors' Training  
February 6, 2025  
Presented by  
Intake & Health Resources Group

# Objectives

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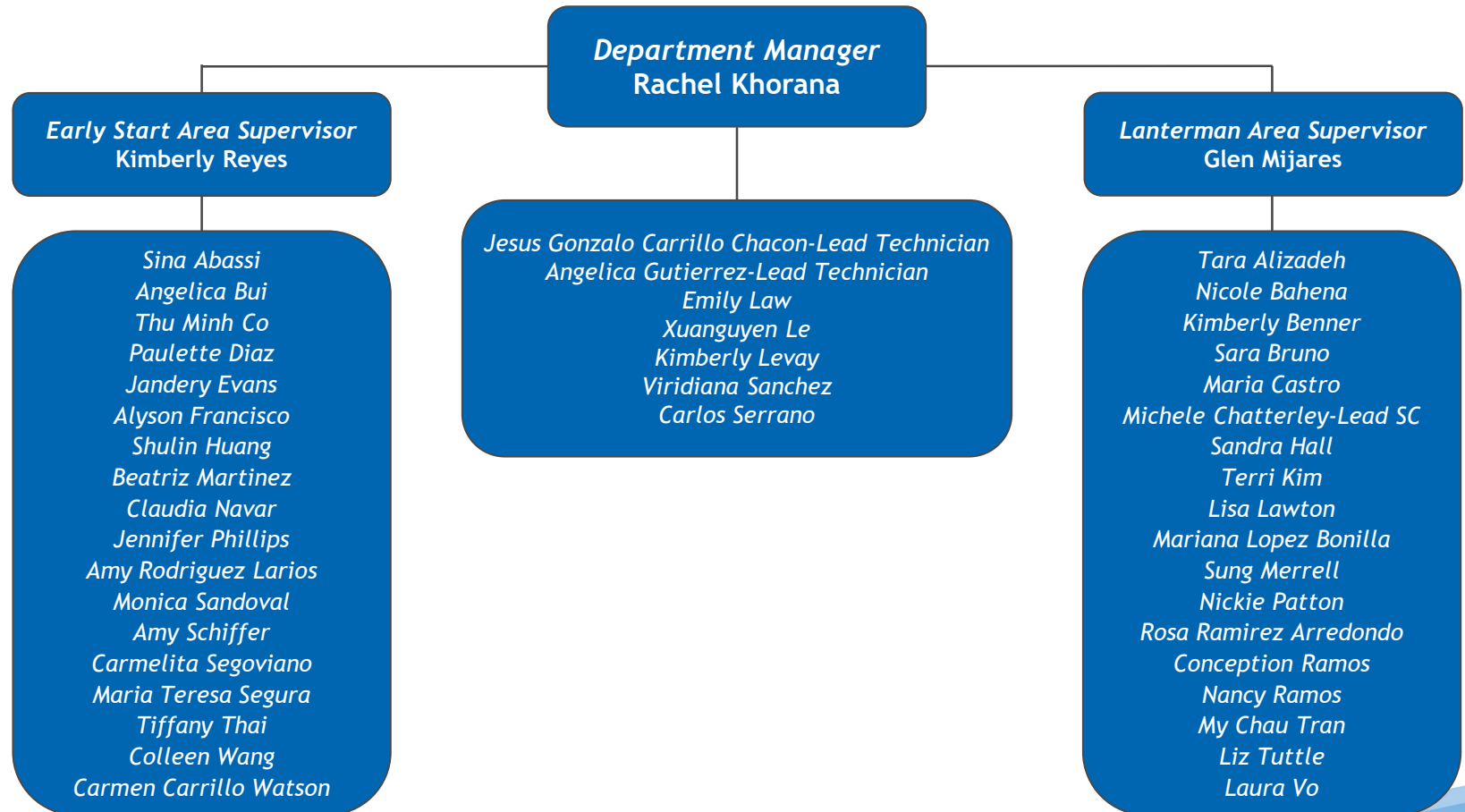
- Introduction to the Intake and Eligibility Teams
- Categories of Eligibility
- Eligibility Process
- Changes to Eligibility

# Meet the Teams

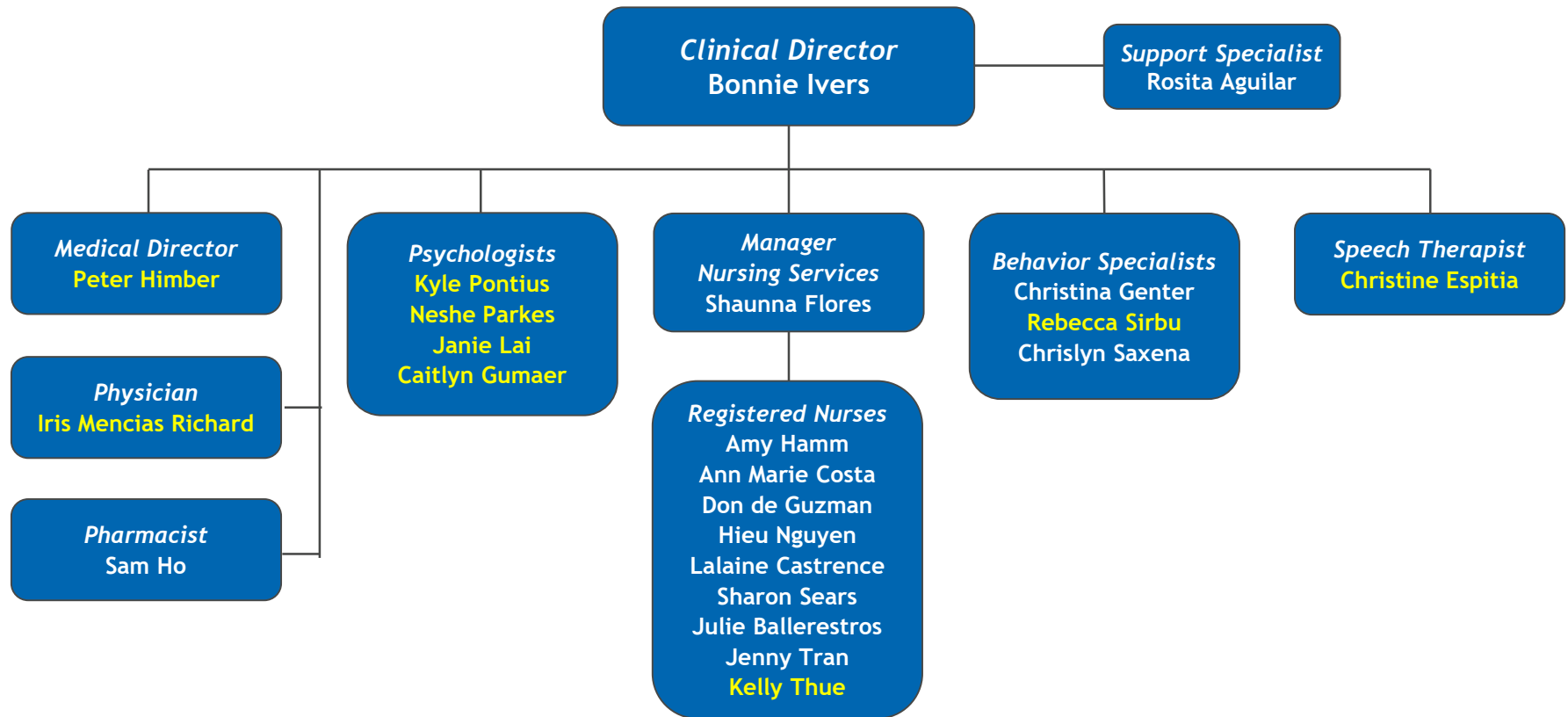
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- Intake Department
- Health Resources Group




# Intake Department



# Health Resources Group



# Regional Center Programs

<u>Early Start</u> Birth to 36 months	<u>Provisional Lanterman</u> <u>Birth-5 years</u> (Previously 3-4 years)	<u>Lanterman</u> Age 3 through Adulthood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enacted in 1986 (under IDEA)</li><li>• Meets the Federal Criteria</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eligibility criteria defined by the state</li><li>• Created in 2021</li><li>• Expanded to 0-3 years in February 2024</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eligibility criteria defined by the state</li><li>• Has existed since the establishment of regional centers</li></ul>
		

# Let's Talk About Early Start



# Criteria for Early Start

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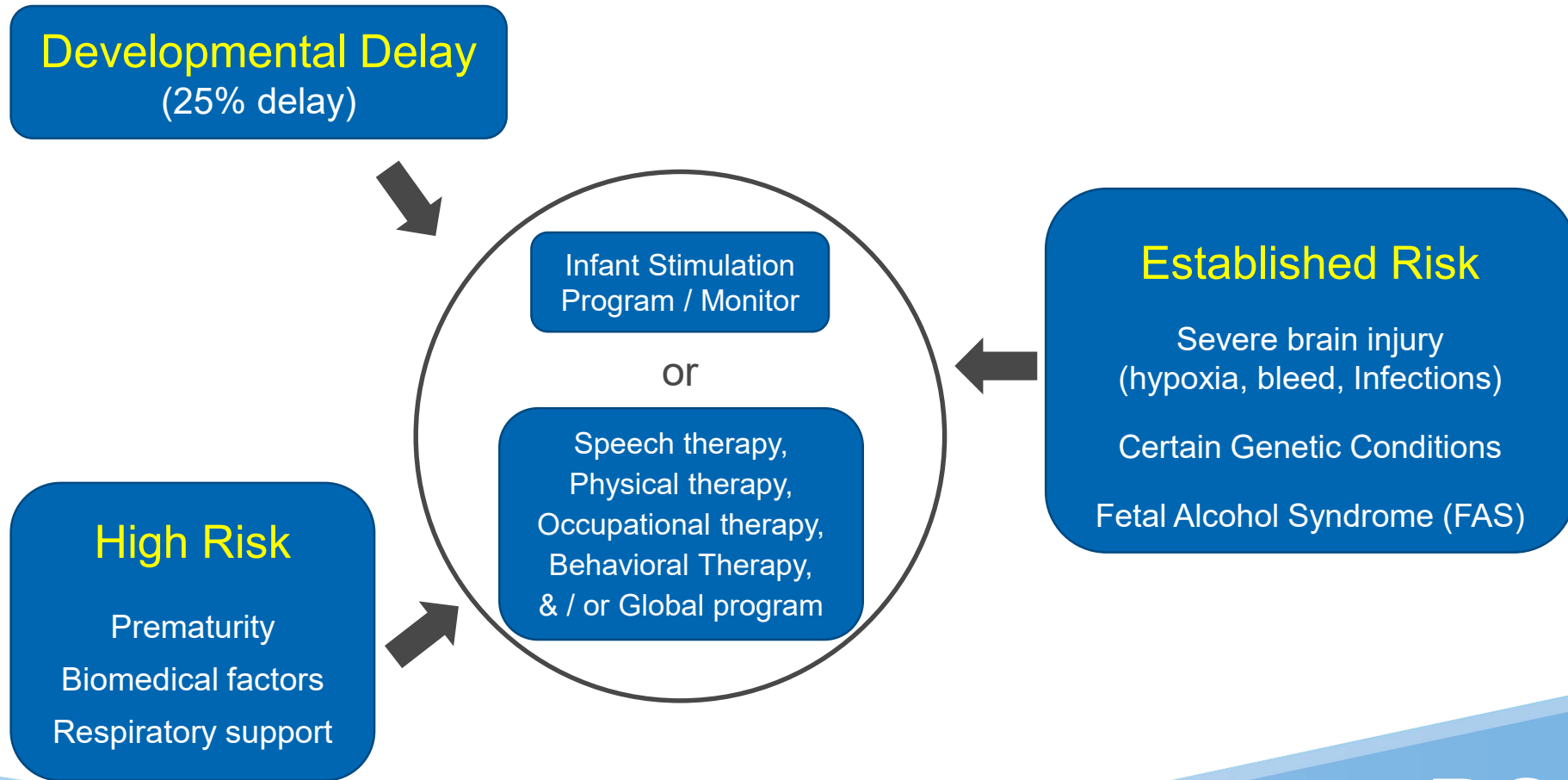
Infants and toddlers (birth-36 months) who are at risk of having developmental disabilities or who have a developmental delay may qualify for services.

- Developmental delay of at least 25% in one or more areas:
  - cognitive
  - receptive or expressive language
  - social or emotional
  - adaptive
  - physical and motor development including \*vision and hearing
- Established risk condition-conditions of known etiology with high probability of developmental delay
- High risk of having a substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors and children who have a parent served through RCOC

\*refer to Local Education Agency (LEA)



# Early Start Eligibility Categories



# Where Do Early Start Referrals Come From?

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- Medical professionals
- Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs)
  - CHOC
  - UCI health systems
  - Kaiser
  - Hoag
  - Saddleback
  - St. Jude/St. Joseph (Providence Health Care System)
- Collaboration with various clinics
- Self-referral
- Community partners
  - Help Me Grow
  - First 5 of California
  - Public Health Nursing
  - Family Support Network (developmental screenings)
  - Orange County Mental Health
  - Social Services Agencies (from OC, LA, Riverside)
- Pre-schools

# Overview of RCOC Early Start Eligibility Process

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Family applies

Developmental  
assessments are  
conducted as  
appropriate

Early Start Intake  
SC & Specialists  
review  
documentation

Eligibility  
decision made  
(within 45 days)

# Let's Talk About Lanterman

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# Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act

## (Criteria for Lanterman Eligibility)

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- Developmental Disability (must have one of the following):
  - Autism
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Intellectual Disability
  - Epilepsy
  - Conditions closely related to, or that require treatment similar to, those that are required for an intellectual disability
- Originate prior to age 18
- Be expected to continue indefinitely
- Be a substantial disability-meaning the person experiences significant limitations in three or more areas of major life activity

# 5<sup>th</sup> Category: Conditions Similar

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Conditions closely related to, or that require treatment similar to, those that are required for an intellectual disability.

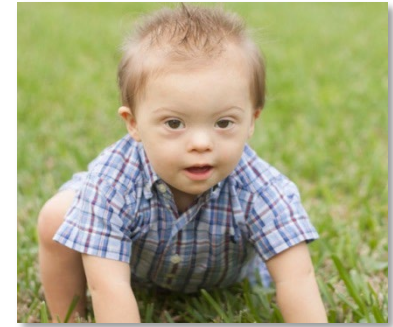
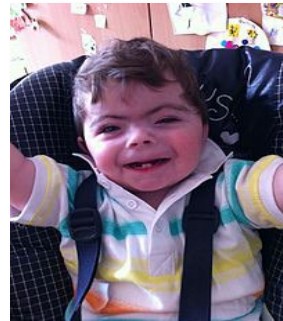
The law does not define “closely related to” nor “treatment similar”.

There are many conditions that may fall under this category, such as:

- Genetic syndromes
- Traumatic-brain injury
- Borderline Intellectual Functioning
- Global Developmental Delay
- Neurological or Cognitive Disorders

# Genetic Conditions

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Genetic conditions that have expected poor developmental outcome.

- ✓ Trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome)
- ✓ Cornelia de Lange Syndrome
- ✓ Cri-du-chat Syndrome (Cat's Cry/5p deletion)
- ✓ Kabuki Syndrome
- ✓ Fragile X (not carrier but with full mutation)



# What Conditions are NOT Developmental Disabilities

(NOT Lanterman Act eligible conditions)

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- **Solely** psychiatric disorders
  - Bipolar Disorder
  - Schizophrenia
  - Personality Disorders
- **Solely** learning disabilities
  - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
  - Dyslexia
  - Math Disorder
  - Non-Verbal Learning Disability
- Conditions that are **solely** physical
  - Blindness
  - Deaf/Hard of Hearing
  - Spinal cord injury
  - Most muscle diseases such as muscular dystrophy



# What Is Substantial Disability?

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- Significant functional limitations in at least three areas of major life activity (activities of daily living):
  - Self care
  - Receptive & expressive language
  - Learning
  - Mobility
  - Self-direction
  - Capacity for independent living
  - Economic self-sufficiency

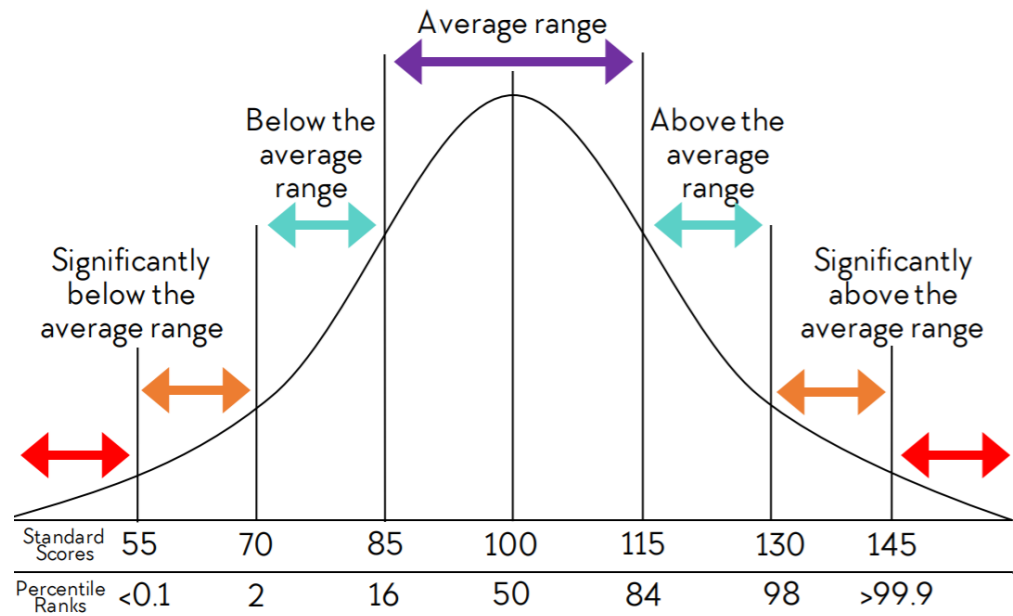
*Substantial disability is the result of the identified developmental disability  
(not due to another condition)*

# The 7 Areas of Major Life Functioning

Area	Age		
	Birth to 5	6 to 18	Over 18
Receptive & Expressive Language	X	X	X
Learning	X	X	X
Mobility	X	X	X
Self-Care	X	X	X
Self-Direction	X	X	X
Capacity for Independent Living		X	X
Economic Self-sufficiency			X

# How is Substantial Disability Determined

- No single test
- Interviews with circle of support
- Current and past testing
- Direct observations
- Transdisciplinary assessment if needed



# Provisional Lanterman Eligibility

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A child, birth to 5 years old, may be provisionally eligible for regional center services if the child has a disability that is not solely physical in nature and has significant functional limitations in at least two of the following major life areas:

- Learning
- Receptive & Expressive Language
- Self-Care
- Self-Direction
- Mobility

# Collaboration Intake & Health Resources Group

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# Where Do Our Lanterman Referrals Come From?

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- Medical professionals
- Schools and School Districts
- Adult Transition Programs
- Self-referral
- Partnership with community agencies
  - Orange County Mental Health
  - Social Services Agency
  - Department of Rehabilitation
  - Interagency Juvenile Competency Attainment Team (IJCAT)
- Hospitals
- Courts
- Vendors
- Various advocacy groups
- Ongoing community outreach

# Overview of RCOC Lanterman Eligibility Process

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Intake Service Coordinator conducts a meeting with applicant (and circle of support)

Relevant records are gathered and a comprehensive social assessment report is completed

RCOC physician and psychologist review all available information and if necessary, further assessments are conducted

Intake SC, physician and psychologist reach a consensus on an eligibility decision within 120 days

# When an Applicant is Found Eligible

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- Applicant / circle of support is notified
- An ongoing Lanterman service coordinator is assigned
- An Individual Program Plan (IPP) is developed to determine needed services
  - This happens within 30 days after the applicant (and / or circle of support) are notified of the eligibility decision



# When an Applicant is Found Ineligible

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- Applicant / circle of support is notified
- A formal letter explaining denial of eligibility
- Fair Hearing / Appeals (FH) packet which includes a Notice of Action (NOA)
  - An appeal must be received within 60 days
- Re-application (in the future)
  - Any applicant can reapply in the future if progress is not made as expected and there is new and relevant information

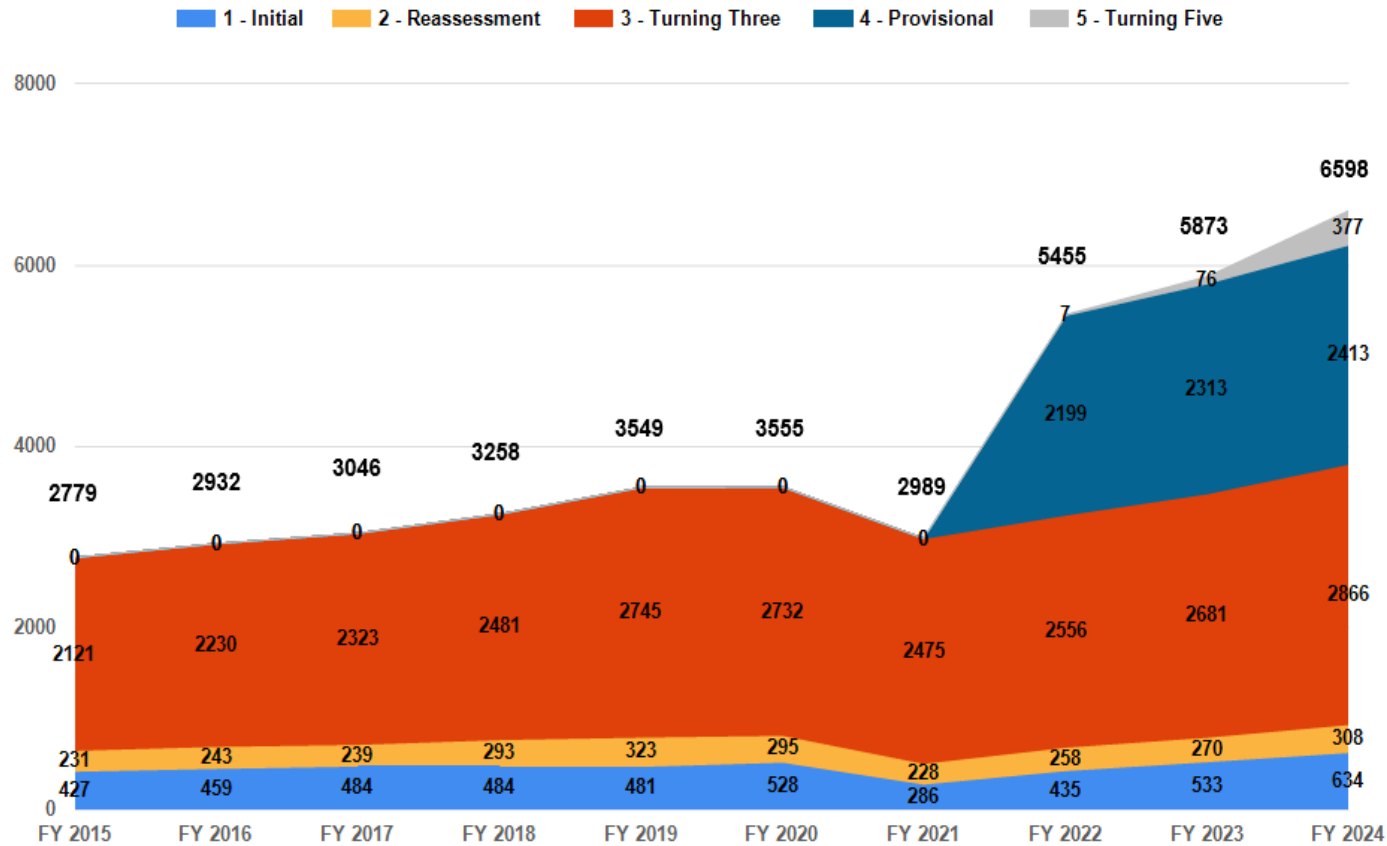
# Changes to Eligibility

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# Eligibility Reviews

Eligibility Reviews by Type from 2014 to 2024



# Why It is Important to Get Eligibility Right

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- Lanterman Act (Entitlement)
  - Following the law
  - Stewards of tax dollars
- Errors in eligibility can inadvertently cause issues accessing other systems
  - If receiving regional center services, this can prevent someone from receiving services from another system

# Transparency

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- RCOC website
- RCOC brochures
- RCOC Eligibility & Services flyer
- Intake inquiries
  - Intake Main Reception (714) 796-5354
  - [Intake@rcocdd.com](mailto:Intake@rcocdd.com)
- *Ask a question*
  - [askaquestion@rcocdd.com](mailto:askaquestion@rcocdd.com)



[www.rcocdd.com](http://www.rcocdd.com) | 714.796.5100

