



**Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)** is one of 21 private, nonprofit organizations contracted by the State of California's Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to coordinate lifelong services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The regional center is the first stop for those seeking to obtain local services and supports to help them live safely and with dignity in the community. Currently, RCOC serves **28,743** Orange County residents with developmental disabilities and their families. Developmental disabilities include autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and intellectual disabilities.

### Types of Services and Supports

RCOC contracts with local service providers to ensure those we serve receive the specific services and supports they need, based on an adult's Individual Program Plan (IPP) or a child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Examples include:

- Supported Employment Services, including help finding an appropriate job and the services of a job coach to facilitate success on the job
- Residential Services, including Independent or Supported Living Services, and group homes
- Transportation
- Prenatal Diagnostic Evaluation
- Early Intervention Services (Early Start for birth to 36 months)
- Therapy Services
- Respite Care Services
- Child Care Services
- Adult Day Program Services
- Psychological, Counseling and Behavioral Services
- Medical and Dental Services
- Equipment and Supplies
- Social and Recreational Services

### Eligibility for Regional Center Services

The California Legislature crafted the specific criteria that determine whether or not a person is eligible for Regional Center services. Being diagnosed with a developmental disability is not, solely, enough to qualify. The following is from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) [website](#):

*To be eligible for services, a person must have a disability that begins before the person's 18th birthday, be expected to continue indefinitely and present a substantial disability as defined in [SECTION 4512 of the CALIFORNIA WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE](#).*

*Eligibility is established through diagnosis and assessment performed by [regional centers](#).*

*Infants and toddlers (age 0 to 36 months) who are at risk of having developmental disabilities or who have a developmental delay may also qualify for services. The criteria for determining the eligibility of infants and toddlers is specified in [SECTION 95014 of the CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE](#). In addition, individuals at risk of having a child with a developmental disability may be eligible for genetic diagnosis, counseling and other prevention services.*

*For information about these services, see [Early Start](#).*

### Intake Process

RCOC serves only those in Orange County, but the intake process is similar with any Regional Center. To inquire about applying for services, a person can simply call RCOC's Intake and Assessment Department at (714) 796-5354 or send an email to [intake@rcocdd.com](mailto:intake@rcocdd.com). RCOC's intake staff walks the person or parent through the application/referral process and identifies what sort of information RCOC will need them to submit to begin the intake process. Parents, guardians and conservators, or an adult with a developmental disability may initiate the application process. A professional, such as a pediatrician, or other interested party may also do so, but only with permission from the individual or family.



## **RCOC Board of Directors**

The RCOC Board of Directors provides policy direction to the agency and is comprised of up to 19 unpaid, volunteer residents of Orange County -- primarily people served by RCOC and family members. Additionally, the Board includes one Vendor Advisory Committee Liaison and representatives of various professions in the community.

## **Employment First Policy**

In 2013, Governor Brown signed into the law California's Employment First policy, and the federal government followed in 2014 with a similarly-focused law. RCOC has been a leader in implementing the policy, which requires Regional Centers to help families explore competitive, integrated employment as the first option for the working-age adults we serve.

RCOC's leadership in this area actually preceded these legal mandates and has been driven by our commitment to being responsive to the evolving needs and expectations of those we serve. Our experience has been that, like those without disabilities, many of the adults we serve gain both self-confidence and a sense of purpose from the work they do.

## **Competitive Integrated Employment**

What defines an employment situation as "competitive" and "integrated" is that the job is paid, it takes place in the community (rather than in a sheltered workshop or other site-based program), and the person with developmental disabilities works alongside other employees who do not have disabilities.

The work may be part-time or full-time work, in any field or industry, and the person who has the job may or may not have ongoing support from a job coach. As such, there is a competitive, integrated employment situation to suit the talents and interests of almost any adult with a developmental disability.