

TRIBAL OUTREACH MATERIALS FOR EARLY START



REVISED JULY, 2023
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FAMILIES COALITION

TRIBAL FAQs

Can I include my family and/or tribal provider in the Early Start process?

YES! Parents are encouraged to include supports such as family, relatives and tribal providers throughout the intake process as well as while accessing services to ensure collaborative, coordinated care.

Will I be completing all of this paperwork alone?

NO! We know the application process can be complex, and there can be a lot of paperwork involved! Regional center staff are equipped to help you understand and complete the paperwork. They may need you to help answer questions only you will have the answers to, so expect to set aside time where you can complete this together. Parent Navigator programs are also available to offer additional support.

Can Regional Centers take away my children?

NO! Regional centers are not Child Welfare Services and do not have the authority or ability to remove children from your home. Regional center staff are mandated reporters, but you and your child likely interact with mandated reporters every day. For example, all school staff and faculty are mandated reporters.

What if my doctor or other provider has already evaluated my child and determined there is no diagnosis? Is my child still eligible for Early Start evaluation?

YES! Providers vary widely in their methods of screening and evaluation, and data shows us developmental disabilities and delays often go undiagnosed. If you suspect your child may have a developmental disability or delay, we recommend always getting a second opinion, which Early Start evaluation may provide.

TRIBAL FAQs CONTINUED

I would like to refer my child to Early Start but I live in a remote area and am worried about travel time and costs. Does Early Start offer any support with this?

YES! Based on your child's assessment, your Early Start Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) may include supports, including travel costs you need to access Early Start services. In addition, many services can be provided within the home, school and community setting, reducing the need for families to travel. Be sure to bring this up to your Service Coordinator during the intake process!

Can I refer my child? Or refer more than once?

YES! If you have any concerns about your child's development, please reach out to your local regional center. While Early Start is for children ages 0-3, at any time, if you have concerns, don't be afraid to refer!

What if I haven't heard back from my regional center yet?

You can ALWAYS follow up! If you haven't heard back from your regional center in a week or two, we encourage you to follow up! Regional centers have 45 calendar days from the time of referral to developing the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Have more questions?

Many more FAQs are answered on the [DDS Early Start FAQ Page](#).



ADDRESSING STIGMA

If you are concerned about your child's development, know that it is important to act early.

We know tribal communities are especially impacted by stigma associated with accessing developmental services for their children. Recent survey data conducted within tribal communities indicate that as many as 90% of respondents felt there were "negative" or "mostly negative" associations and understandings of developmental disabilities and/or delays.

For children experiencing delays, Early Start is the best way to address these concerns. Ensuring your child has access to these services early on is the best way to ensure they have access to the supports they need.

If your child has a disability, acting early will allow you, your family and Early Start team to best design an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) that meets the unique developmental and cultural needs of your child, ensuring your child has access to ongoing care throughout life.

You are not alone.

Developmental delays are common. As many as 1 in 6 children have a developmental delay. We also know that developmental needs go too often are un-diagnosed in tribal communities. By being an active participant in your child's Early Start services, you are helping to reduce stigma and barriers for others in your tribal community.



ADVOCACY

Tribal providers are great advocates.

If you are having trouble accessing services for your child, know that you can always ask your tribe for help. Tribal providers may have experience troubleshooting common barriers to accessing services within your community, or otherwise understand how to best convey your unique circumstances to the Early Start Services Coordinator. We encourage you to involve your tribal providers as advocates throughout the Early Start process.

Bring your supports with you along the way.

In addition to tribal providers, family, friends and relatives with shared experience navigating developmental services can be helpful throughout this process. You can bring your supports with you to appointments, seek guidance and share resources. You may even find an existing community support network or gather with other parents to build one of your own! Your regional center and/or tribe may have more information about existing support groups in your area.



TRIBAL REGIONAL CENTER LOOKUP TOOL

**Having trouble identifying tribal resources in your region?
Don't know which regional center serves your tribal community?**

The California Tribal Families Coalition [Tribal/Regional Center Lookup Tool](#) is available as a mobile app or online that helps you search for the following services in your region:

- Tribes
- Tribal Social Services
- Tribal Education Services
- Tribal Health Services
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Tribal Courts
- Regional Centers



[WHAT WE DO](#)[ABOUT](#)[MEMBERSHIP](#)[QUICK REFERENCE](#)[NEWS](#)[CONTACT](#)

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

[Tribal Website](#)

Address: 5401 Dinah Shore Drive,
Palm Springs, Riverside County, 92264,
United States

Phone: 760-699-6800

[Tribal Departments/Services Provided](#)

[Regional Center Website](#)

Regional Center: Inland Regional Center

Alturas Indian Rancheria


