

May 27, 2025



Ernie Cruz, Deputy Director

Department of Developmental Services
Community Services Division
Office of Community Operations

Re: Expenditure and Demographic Data and Public Meetings per W&I Code §4519.5 and Department of Developmental Services (DDS)/Regional Center Contract for Fiscal Year 2023–2024

Dear Mr. Cruz:

In December 2024, the link to the DDS website containing Annual Expenditure and Authorized Services data for Fiscal Year 2023–2024 was posted, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code §4519.5 and SCLARC's contract with DDS. The DDS webpage included de-identified data reports regarding purchase of service authorizations, utilization, and expenditures, categorized by age, race/ethnicity, language, living arrangement, and disability.

In accordance with W&I Code §4519.5(g), the **South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC)** held a **hybrid Purchase of Service (POS) Expenditure and Demographics Data public meeting on March 27, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, both in person at the Embassy Suites Downey Hotel and virtually via Zoom. The meeting was conducted in **English with Spanish interpretation**, and **closed captioning** was available.

Community Notification and Outreach

SCLARC met all notification requirements by informing DDS via liaison email and posting notice on its website **at least 30 days in advance**. Outreach efforts included:

- Posting of flyer and registration information on the SCLARC website and Family Portal App.
- Notices sent through **electronic newsletters, social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X), and Everbridge alerts**.
- Direct emails to community partners, support groups, and organizations representing underserved communities.
- Materials available in **English and Spanish**.

Meeting Participation and Accessibility

A total of **approximately 100–200 individuals** participated, including self-advocates, family members, community advocates, community-based organizations, SCLARC staff, Board members, and representatives from **DDS, Disability Rights California, El ARCA Inc., 24-Hour Homecare, Aveanna, ICC/Disability Voices United**, and the **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**.

To ensure accessibility, SCLARC provided bilingual interpreters (Spanish and ASL), plain-language materials, and both printed and electronic presentation handouts. Refreshments were offered to in-person attendees, and a link to a **post-meeting disparity survey** remained open for two weeks to collect additional feedback.

Presentation and Discussion

The **Annual Purchase of Service Meeting Presentation (FY 2023–24)** summarized expenditure data, demographic information, and utilization rates by age, ethnicity, and residence type. Highlights include:

- 77% of individuals served received purchased services; 23% did not.
- Continued decrease in the percentage of individuals with no POS across all ethnicities.
- \$765 million in authorizations and \$549 million in payments, an increase from the previous year, with a decline in non-utilized funds.
- African American and Hispanic/Latino individuals comprised 92% of SCLARC's caseload. Most Hispanic/Latino individuals served were children residing with parents or guardians.

Public comments reflected appreciation for clearer presentations and raised topics such as advocacy support, staff training, and improved service navigation.

Identified Disparities and Actions

SCLARC identified disparities primarily among individuals living in family homes compared to those in out-of-home placements. To address these gaps, SCLARC continues to implement strategies including:

- Enhanced Service Coordination for individuals with low or no POS.
- Expansion of culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach through the **Language Accessibility and Cultural Competency (LACC) Plan**.
- Ongoing **Parent Mentor Program** and community-based trainings in multiple languages.
- Continued focus on **survey feedback, focus groups, and listening sessions** to guide equity improvements.

- Collaboration with partners to host **Service Provider Resource Fairs** and workshops (e.g., on accessing IHSS).

Key Survey Results (FY 2023–24)

- **81%** of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with SCLARC’s information and materials.
- **87%** agreed that their IPP/IFSP planning process was person-centered and coordinated effectively.
- **85%** agreed SCLARC has providers who meet the cultural and language needs of the community.

SCLARC remains dedicated to addressing disparities in service access and utilization, ensuring linguistic and cultural inclusivity, and continuing transparent engagement with our community stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dexter A. Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dexter Henderson, Executive Director
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

Enclosures:

- Website Posting
- Annual POS Meeting Flyer
- FY 2023–24 POS Presentation
- Attendee Reports and Sign-In Sheets
- Public Comments and Chat Log
- Email Comment Submission