
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1208 (Addis) - California Developmental Disability Services Quality, Performance, and Outcomes Act of 2025

Version: June 24, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: July 14, 2025

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1208 would establish the California Developmental Disability Services Quality, Performance, and Outcomes Act of 2025.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely low millions, for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for state administration.

Background: California's Lanterman Act established that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have a right to receive the necessary supports and services required to live independently in the community. The Lanterman Act enumerates the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as the rights of their families, what services and supports are available to these individuals, and how regional centers and service providers work together to provide these supports and services. The term "developmental disability" is defined as a disability that originates before a person reaches 18 years of age, is expected to continue indefinitely, and is a significant disability for the individual; such disabilities include, among others: epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and cerebral palsy.

Direct responsibility for implementation of the Lanterman Act's service system is shared by DDS and a statewide network of 21 regional centers, which are private, community-based nonprofit entities that contract with DDS to carry out many of the state's responsibilities. The primary purpose of regional centers is to connect individuals with services in the community. Current law requires the DDS and the regional centers to annually collaborate to compile and report data in a uniform manner relating to purchase of service authorization, utilization, and expenditure by each regional center, as specified.

In March 2025, the California Health and Human Services Agency released a "Master Plan for Developmental Services" which stated:

"The goal of the Master Plan for Developmental Services (MPDS) is to improve how California supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families into the future. Equity was a guiding principle for the MPDS process, because there are people and communities in California who experience unfair treatment and unequal outcomes in the developmental services system. This report talks about ways to make the developmental services systems work better. It provides a vision for a future where people with I/DD have resources needed to thrive in the communities of their choice."

“Now that the MPDS is finalized, DDS will begin to work on many of the recommendations. This work will move forward in different working groups. DDS will also hold meetings two times per year to focus on work being done on the MPDS. These meetings will center the experiences of people with I/DD and their families, including people who contributed to the MPDS. Based on these efforts DDS will submit an annual report on progress on the MPDS to the legislature.”

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require DDS to review, assess, and map all established and currently pending regional center and vendored service provider quality, performance, and outcome measures and surveys that are used or are being developed for the purpose of quality, performance, and outcome measurements within the California developmental services system, as specified; and require the department’s review, assessment, and mapping to be completed no later than July 1, 2026.
- Require, on or before January 1, 2027, DDS to consult with stakeholders and appropriate subject matter experts, including academic social scientists with training in program evaluation, causal inference and data science, via a working group, to develop all of the following:
 - A uniform set of quality, performance, and outcomes measures that will permit performance to be measured and outcomes to be tracked at the individual, regional center, vendor, and systemwide levels.
 - A tracking mechanism to measure, compare, and track over time, at the individual, regional center, and systemwide level, the consistency, equity, and accountability in promoting the choice, autonomy, and life quality of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
 - Performance indicators and benchmarks for regional centers for defining high quality of service and related incentives, as described, and for defining basic performance below which placement on probation and corrective action may be required, as specified.
- Require, on or before January 1, 2028, DDS to submit a report to the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to, the data, methodology, and progress of implementation of quality, performance, and outcome measures.
- Require the quality, performance, and outcome measures to:
 - Be incorporated into any new statewide information technology system that replaces the current patchwork of legacy systems so that precise operational definitions and protocols for consistent data will be available to measure performance and outcomes.
 - Meet the requirements of the final federal home- and community-based settings and access rules and be grounded on evidence-based research and practices.

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