



**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*



**Richard Whitley**  
*Director*

State of Nevada  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Aging and Disability Services Division

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# Overview of Developmental Services Regional Centers

Desert Regional Center



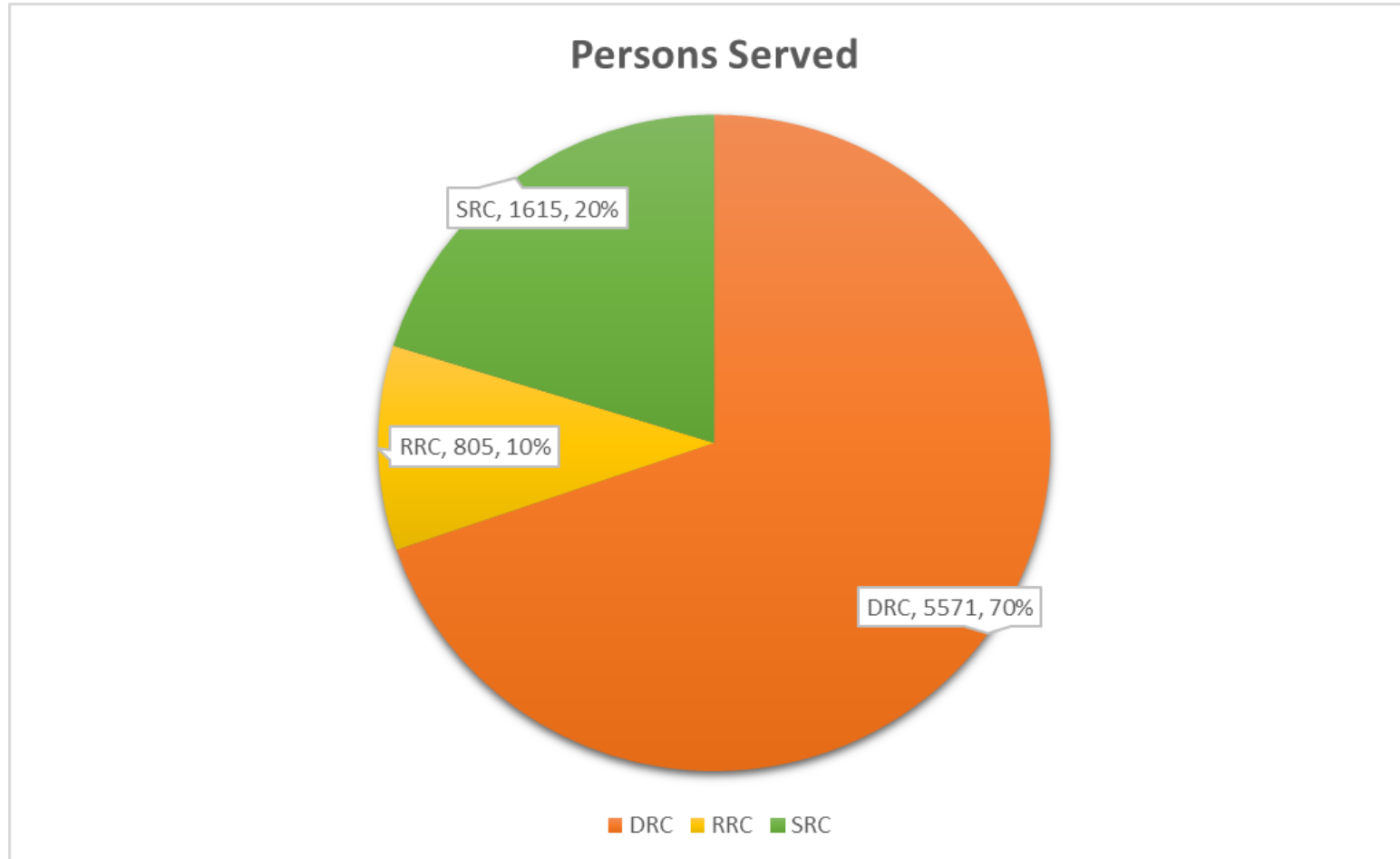
# Desert Regional Center

- Nevada Developmental Services (DS) provides services to individuals who reside in the state of Nevada who meet qualifying clinical eligibility standards and who meet federal qualification guidelines for services.
- DS provides quality services to eligible individuals throughout the lifespan – from birth until death.
- It is the mission of Desert Regional Center to support individuals in achieving a life of meaning, equality, dignity, opportunity and inclusion in the community.



Vision  
Mission  
& Values

# Statewide Individuals Served Total 7991 (September 2023)



# Nevada Regional Centers

- **Sierra Regional Center** – covering **Washoe County**
- **Rural Regional Center** – covering all of **rural Nevada**, with office locations in:
  - Carson City
  - Elko
  - Fallon
  - Fernley
  - Gardnerville
  - Winnemucca
  - Mesquite
  - Pahrump
- **Desert Regional Center** – covering **Metro Clark County**



# The Regional Centers

- **Sierra Regional Center**

480 Galletti Way Bldg. 1

Sparks, NV 89431

P: (702) 687-2600

- **Rural Regional Center**

1665 Old Hot Springs Road; Suite 165

Carson City, NV 89706

(775) 687-5162

- **Desert Regional Center  
Administrative Office**

1391 S Jones Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89146

(702) 486-6200

**Ask to speak with  
someone in intake to  
begin the application  
process.**

## DRC SATELLITE OFFICES

5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite B2 and C1

Las Vegas, NV 89103

(702) 486-6326

DRC Intake Office

5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite C1

Las Vegas, NV 89103

(702) 486-7850

720 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 486-6326



# Eligibility Criteria for Nevada Developmental Services

# Eligibility

A person may qualify for Developmental Services from the state of Nevada if she or he is a legal resident of Nevada and has a confirmed diagnosis of:

- **Developmental Delay** (under 6 years of age)
- **Developmental Disability**
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - Seizure Disorder
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - FAS
  - Down Syndrome
  - Fragile X
  - Genetic/Neurological Conditions
- **Intellectual Disability**

# Developmental Disability

- Examples of types of Developmental Disabilities:
  - Autism
  - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
  - Epilepsy
  - Down Syndrome
  - Prader-Willi Syndrome
  - Fragile X
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Traumatic Brain Injury





# Substantial Functional Limitations Of Adaptive Behavior

Adaptive behaviors are those day-to-day activities that are necessary for individuals to get along with others and take care of themselves. These activities change as a person grows and become less dependent on the help of others. At every age, certain skills are required to determine how well the individual is functioning at home, school, and in the community.

## Areas of Major Life Activity:

- Self-care
- Understanding and use of language
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction
- Capacity for independent living

# Substantial Functional Limitations Of Adaptive Behavior and Qualifying Developmental Disabilities

- To qualify for Developmental Services under a developmental disability diagnosis an individual must also demonstrate significant substantial functional limitations in three or more areas of major life activity
- Determination of substantial functional limitations is based on the results of standardized assessments that relies on a respondent such as a parent, teacher, or care-provider to provide information about the individual being assessed.
- Significant limitations are defined as performance that is at least 2 standard deviations below the mean of the following three types of adaptive behavior: conceptual, social, or practical.

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ADSD Developmental Services also supports individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.



# Intellectual Disability

- Intellectual Disability is characterized by significant limitations in both:
  - Intellectual functioning
  - Adaptive skills
- This is considered to be a lifelong condition originating before the age of 22 years.

# Intellectual Disability

Requires a diagnosis by a licensed psychologist OR a certified school psychologist.

Intellectual Disability is supported by test results including intellectual assessment scores and assessment of adaptive behavior.

Significant limitations in intellectual functioning refers to impairments in general mental capacity, such as learning, reasoning and problem solving.



- So someone wants to receive services and supports from a Regional Center...



# Intake Process

- Potential applicants can contact the Regional Centers to inquire about the process of applying for services.
- An Intake specialist will discuss the application and eligibility process, review the application process, review documentation requires and assists the applicant to gather documents needed to help inform the eligibility determination as to if the individual meets eligibility requirements. Individuals apply at a Regional Center based on the area in which they live.
- Once the information is gathered, it is reviewed by an Eligibility Review Committee. Committee.
- If needed, psychological testing and assessment can be done by the Regional Center to inform eligibility.

# Supporting Documentation

## Intellectual Disability

- Requires a diagnosis by a licensed psychologist OR a finding by a certified school psychologist
- Is supported by test results including intellectual assessment scores and assessment of adaptive behavior



## Developmental Disability

- **Autism Spectrum Disorders:** diagnosed by a licensed psychologist, neurologist, pediatrician, psychiatrist, or educational assessments completed by a certified school psychologist
- **Neurological Disorders (seizure disorders, cerebral palsy, TBI):** diagnosed by a neurologist or other qualified physician and substantiated by medical records (e.g., EEG, neuroimaging)
- **FAS and other Neurodevelopmental Disorders:** are substantiated by medical records (e.g., neurological evaluation, neuroimaging) from a neurologist or geneticist
- **Genetic/Chromosome Disorders:** diagnosed by a physician based on results of genetic/chromosome testing



# Services Available

Service Coordination / Targeted Case Management (TCM)

Supported Living Arrangements (SLA) / Transportation

Jobs and Day Training (JDT)

Quality Assurance (QA)

Family Preservation Program (FPP)

Respite

Purchase of Service (POS)

Self-Directed Family Support Arrangement (FI)

Psych Services

Nursing Services

# Service Coordination



- If found eligible, the case is opened, and a Service Coordinator is assigned.
- Every person who has an open case with Developmental Services has a Service Coordinator.
- The primary role of the Service Coordinator is to assist individuals in developing and carrying out a Person-Centered Plan (PCP); enhance self-determination and choice; and assess satisfaction, effectiveness and quality of services provided through:
  - Routine monitoring activities
  - Quarterly Reviews of satisfaction of services and PCP
  - Annual Review to monitor goals and service plans outlined in the PCP

# Person Centered Plan

## What is Person-Centered Planning?

- Person-Centered planning empowers people with disabilities. It focuses on the person and their needs by putting them in charge of defining the direction for their lives. This process identifies the strengths, capacities, preferences, needs and desired outcome of the individual and ultimately leads to greater inclusion as valued members of both community and society.

Regional Center approach is **ALWAYS** Person-Centered



## The Plan

- The PCP describes services that the individual will need to be successful, such as supervision, training, medical supports, transportation supports, and any additional ongoing supports. Ensuring the individual's wants, needs, and priorities are the center of the plan.
- Services can be provided by natural community supports, family and friends, or by a contracted provider of the Regional Center.

# Supported Living Arrangements (SLA)

## PURPOSE

- The SLA program offers residential supports to individuals receiving Regional Center services who require assistance to be successful where they live
- This program is designed with the goal of supporting people to live in a home of their choice as self-sufficiently as possible.

## POSSIBLE SERVICES

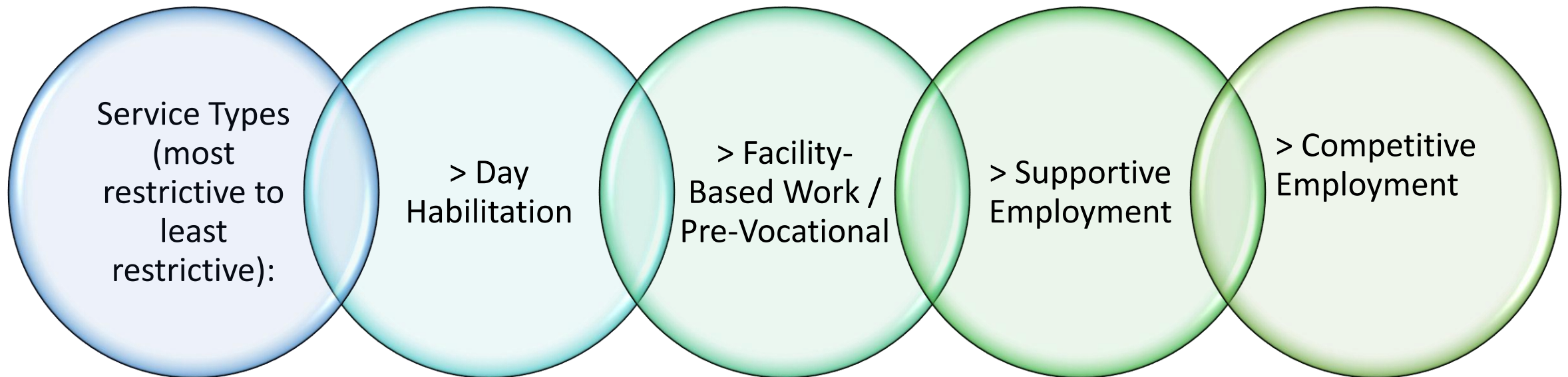
- Money Management
  - Shopping
- Recreation & Socialization
  - Health & Fitness
    - Cooking
    - Laundry
    - Cleaning
- Transportation - provide money to assist with transportation to needed services
- Other services associated with living in a home

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

- [Intermittent SLA](#)
  - Provided to individuals while living in a home or apartment by themselves, with a roommate, or with family.
- [24 Hour SLA](#)
  - An individual requires maximum support services where staff are present whenever there are individuals at home.
  - Individuals live in a home with roommates in a community neighborhood and share support services from the provider.
- [Shared Living Homes](#)
  - Individuals who desire or need a family living situation receive services from a Shared Living Provider who includes the individual in their family life and daily activities.

# Jobs and Day Training (JDT)

Jobs and Day Training (JDT) services provide activities and environments designed to foster the acquisition of skills necessary to perform a job task, or to provide necessary supports so individuals can maintain a job or ensure that the individual engages in meaningful activities that enhance their lives within their communities.





# Family Preservation Program (FPP)

## What is the Family Preservation Program?

The FPP program offers financial support to families with individuals living in the home, and receiving Regional Center services, diagnosed with Severe or Profound Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disabilities that affects functioning similar to a Severe or Profound Intellectual Disabilities.

- The purpose is to support the family unit and sustain natural.

- There are no regulations as to how the monies can be spent.

## Who Qualifies for FPP?

- Individuals, of any age, with a diagnosis of Severe or Profound Intellectual Disability.

- Children under the age of 6 years with a diagnosis of Developmental Delay and require supports similar to a person with Severe or Profound Intellectual Disability and living in the family home.

- With a combined household income totaling up to 300% of Federal Poverty Levels.

## Examples of how FPP might be used:

- Specialized supplies or equipment
- Transportation services that enhance participation and interaction within the community

- Respite Care

- General income supplementation

# Family Support Programs

- **The Family Support Services Program was developed to assist families to care for their relatives in the family home.**
- Availability of these programs are based on State availability of funds and families meeting the financial criteria based on 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.



- **Respite**

- Respite care offers families a break from day-to-day responsibilities of caring for their loved ones. Respite can be provided in the family home, at a recreation program, or community agency.
- All providers must initially complete the vendor registration process before services can be provided and reimbursed.

- **Purchase of Service (POS)**

- Purchase of Services offers small grants to assist a family in critical need or during a crisis.
- All funding sources and existing resources must be used by the family before POS can be issued to them.
- Examples of critical need include:
  - Utility payment to avoid loss of utility services
  - Groceries
  - Environmental adaptation
  - Medical/Dental expenses not covered by Medicaid



# Self-Directed Family Support Arrangement (FI)

- This service allows for the Regional Centers to allocate general fund dollars to qualified children (**under 18 years old**) receiving Developmental Services to purchase specialized treatment/skill building and organized programming to assist the individual/family in successful integration into their community.
- **Services approved for FI:**
  - Behavioral training/management – can be utilized in and out of the home
  - Social/Recreation – Specialized day and after-school care and recreation programs (e.g., mental health focus)
  - Daily Living Skills – Services not covered by Medicaid or Insurance
  - Specialized Therapeutic Services – Therapy not covered by Medicaid or Insurance
  - Physical fitness if the need is documented
  - Specialized camps, clinics, or centers that assist the child to develop appropriate skills to integrate into their community.

# Psych Services

- The Regional Centers each have a Psychological Services team that provides the following supports:
  - Eligibility Assessment
  - Individual Counseling
  - Psychological and Behavioral Consultation
    - Behavioral Consultation, Training, and Intervention
    - Clinical Support
    - Counseling



# Nursing Services

- Nursing – Licensed RN's provide nursing assessments and team consultation



# Funding

- Services are funded through a variety of sources, including:
  - The State of Nevada
  - Federal Funds, including Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver Funds
  - County Funds
  - Private Insurance



# Intermediate Care Facility

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The Desert Regional Center Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities is a residential facility of eight discrete homes that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The ICF supports people who are 18 years and older who have significant medical and behavioral support needs and require intensive treatment.





# QUESTIONS?

Helping People. It's who we are and what we do.