

VOL. 7 ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2026

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Serving Del Norte, Humboldt,
Lake, and Mendocino County

With Support, Dreams Can Come True

THREE EMPLOYMENT STORIES FROM REEDY'S WORK SKILLS

By Jerry Peterson

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In honor of this observance, we'd like to celebrate the employment dreams of several individuals and what they have accomplished with a little support and a team that believed in them.

Adrian's story.

Adrian has always dreamed of working on cars.

He grew up helping his dad in the driveway. He loved the engines, the tires, the tools, the smell of gas and brakes.

For a long time, though, Adrian didn't believe it was possible for him.

The truth was, besides helping his dad, he had never really been given the opportunity.

Adrian's love of cars was



Adrian at work.

eventually channeled into washing and detailing them. He enjoyed the work and liked being around cars, but something was still missing. He didn't just want to clean them. He wanted to work on them.

After taking a deeper look at his interests, preferences, and goals, Adrian and his support team got to work developing opportunities

Continued on next page

Days to Remember

**October is National Disability
Employment Awareness
Month**

**October is Down Syndrome
Awareness Month**

**October is Filipino American
History Month**

October 6th
World Cerebral Palsy Day

October 12th
Indigenous People's Day
RCRC is closed

October 31st
Halloween





Dreams Can Come True

Continued from previous page

for him to try something new.

Thanks to the openness of the crew at One Stop Automotive and the diligence of his support team, Adrian finally got that chance through a Paid Internship.

Adrian showed up ready to work with a smile stretching from ear to ear.

He worked and learned alongside the crew. He got his hands dirty, joked and laughed with the guys, and became part of the shop. He would come home covered in grime, with his big pearly white teeth shining through the grease on his cheeks.

He was exactly where he wanted to be.

This August marked the final month of Adrian's paid internship. After successfully completing a full year at One Stop Automotive, I am proud to say that Adrian has reached an incredible milestone:

He was officially hired as an employee.

Adrian's experience can teach us that we don't always need to settle for something "realistic." Sometimes we just need a little help and the right opportunity.

Adrian dreamed of working on cars like his dad.

Now he does.

And it's truly a dream come true.

Miguel's Story

Miguel has cerebral palsy, which makes controlling his muscles and completing many physical tasks difficult. Miguel also has an undying love of hot sauce.

Instead of focusing on what Miguel couldn't do, he and his support team focused on figuring

out how he could do it. Together, they developed adaptive strategies and step-by-step processes that allowed Miguel to take an active role in building his own hot sauce business.

What started as an idea has grown into a real direct-to-consumer business. Miguel obtained his Servesafe certification and has learned about making and selling a product, connecting with customers, filling orders, and what it takes to keep a small business moving forward.

Did I mention the hot sauce is fire?

Miguel has built a growing customer base, and his business is on track to bring in more than \$5,000 in sales this year.

Miguel's story is a great example of what can happen when we stop asking whether someone can do something and start asking what tools, strategies, and support will help them do it.

It turns out that Miguel was the secret ingredient the whole time! For interest in Miguel's hot sauce, contact Jerry at jerry@reedysworkskills.com



Miguel's Hot Sauce.

Continued on next page





Dreams Can Come True

Continued from previous page

Breanna's story

Through a Paid Internship Program (PIP) Breanna took her love of creating handmade bracelets and earrings and turned it into a small business.

At first, it wasn't easy. She struggled with tying knots, picking colors and themes and getting projects done on time. She even had a run in with the police when attempting to sell

at a local park without a permit! Through it all Breanna embraced the challenge and persevered.

She sought out local markets, created displays, connected with customers, tracked her inventory, and learned what it takes to sell a product. Her persistence paid off as she began making sales and building confidence as an entrepreneur.

But Breanna didn't stop there.

Ready to try something new, she began a second PIP at a local café. Breanna brought the same determination with her. She quickly learned how to support her coworkers, help customers, and become someone the team could count on.

Today, Breanna continues to sell her jewelry while gaining valuable experience at the café. Breanna's story reminds us to keep trying new things, embrace new opportunities, and never box ourselves in. ★

*Jerry Peterson,
Program Director of
Reedy's Work Skills*



Breanna at work.

Interested in working?

Every working aged person served by Redwood Coast Regional Center has the right to access employment opportunities.

RCRC offers services that can help someone learn how to get a job, explore careers, and help provide support and coaching while working.

RCRC also offers a paid internship (PIP) program. PIPs allow someone to try a job to see if they like it. It provides the opportunity to learn new skills and build work experience. Internships can lead to being hired by the business. Through the PIP program there is also an option to build your own business or "microenterprise."

Employment is more than a paycheck. It is a powerful pathway to community inclusion, independence and personal growth!

If you receive Regional Center Services and want to work, talk with your Service Coordinator and have an employment goal added to your IPP.



Redwood Coast Regional Center
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org





The Blue Envelope Program

MENDOCINO AND LAKE COUNTIES JOIN IN

By Ron Lee

The Redwood Coast Regional Center, in collaboration with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, hosted a Blue Envelope Program kickoff event at the Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center in Ukiah on July 16. Joining this event were representatives from the Willits Police Department, Ukiah station of the California Highway Patrol, Mendocino County Probation Department and enforcement officers from California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Blue Envelope Program provides a simple, effective tool to make traffic stops and other law enforcement encounters safer, calmer, and more understanding for everyone involved. Participants receive a blue envelope to hold essential documents such as their driver's license, registration, and insurance. When presented to an officer, the envelope discreetly signals that the driver may have a communication disability or condition requiring additional



Captain Quincy Cromer with Mendocino County Sheriff's practice traffic stops.

time or a different approach. The envelope also includes tips and reminders for officers to help guide the interaction. Along with the blue envelopes for drivers, there are also bracelets, key fobs, stickers, ID cards, and other identifying items featuring the Blue Envelope logo. These identifiers can help officers recognize that an individual may have a communication difference. The program is completely voluntary, and participation is not tracked by RCRC or law enforcement partners.

The July 16 event was well attended with approximately 75 community members participating.

Captain Quincy Cromer with the Mendocino County Sheriff's office introduced the other law enforcement partners, provided a presentation about how officers conduct traffic and pedestrian stops and answered questions from the audience. American Sign Language Instructor Alvin Lau spoke regarding experiences of the deaf community during law enforcement interactions. RCRC Client Advocate Tahnee Coleman spoke to an experience she had interacting with law enforcement and how the Blue Envelope program could have helped with that interaction. RCRC Emergency

Continued on next page





The Blue Envelope Program

Continued from previous page

Coordinator Ron Lee provided an overview of the Blue Envelope program and answered questions from attendees. Those who were interested in participating in the program were provided with Blue Envelope materials.

After the presentations interested attendees were given the opportunity to participate in mock traffic stops. Captain Cromer used his patrol car lights and sirens to mimic a traffic stop and practiced interacting with volunteers in roll play interactions. This provided an opportunity for those interested to practice using the materials and for those in the audience to see how the program works during these types of interactions.

“The Blue Envelope Program provides a simple, effective tool to make traffic stops and other law enforcement encounters safer, calmer, and more understanding for everyone involved.”
— Ron Lee

Many thanks to many RCRC staff who made this event a success including Diversity and Outreach Alma Ingram and the Outreach team, Client Advocate Tahnee Coleman, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist Jenny Feix, Quality Assurance Specialist Nicole Andre and Vendorization and Rates Coordinator Cristina Gomez.

RCRC is currently partnering with the Lake County Sheriff's Office to expand the program into Lake County with two events scheduled in October. The first event will be on October 6th from 1-3pm at the Lake County Fairgrounds, and the second event will take place on October 7th from 1-3pm at Austin Park in Clearlake. ★

For more information, visit RCRC's website at <https://redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/the-blue-envelope-program/> or contact Ron Lee, RCRC Emergency Management Coordinator at 707-445-0893 ext. 383

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM

Redwood Coast Regional Center and participating partners are proud to offer The Blue Envelope program.

The program is designed to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement and community members with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Dementia, Alzheimer's or other conditions that might require additional accommodations or awareness during a law enforcement interaction.

The Blue Envelope Program provides individuals with Blue Envelope materials to display when engaging with law enforcement or community service personnel. These Blue Envelope-branded items can contain essential documents, and other relevant paperwork.

To learn more about the Blue Envelope program, participating locations, and where you can receive your free materials, visit redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/the-blue-envelope-program/



Redwood Coast Regional Center
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

RCRC Newsletter

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EaRTH Center Development

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN DOWNTOWN EUREKA

On Wednesday, August 26th Community members including RCRC's Executive Director, Jonathan Padilla attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the EaRTH Center development.

This development will bring 45 new affordable housing units, a central transit center, and several ground-level commercial spaces. Included in the development are 11 units reserved for people with disabilities.



Jonathan Padilla speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The new building sites will be located at two city-owned parking lots in downtown Eureka at the corner of 3rd Street and H Street.

Affordable housing for people that have developmental disabilities is one of the most frequently cited issues that the people we serve face," said Jonathan Padilla.

"The center will mean access to the downtown area for people we serve, and access to transportation. It will go a long way toward helping people live meaningful lives, to be integrated, included and valued members of the community.

To learn more about the project, visit the Lost Coast Outpost to read their full article: <https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2026/aug/26/earth-center-breaks-ground-development-will-bring/>



Community members 'break ground' at the location of the new EaRTH Center development.



OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Del Norte

Humboldt

Mendocino

Lake

Virtual

Please enjoy the following events hosted, sponsored or tabled by Redwood Coast Regional Center. (Click on flyer to enlarge)
Additional events hosted by community partners can be found on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) platforms.

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Trick or Treat event

Friday, October 30th, 3:00-5:00pm

1301 Northcrest Drive, Crescent City



REDWOOD DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Playgroup

Every Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm

October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

612 G Street, #102, Eureka

Free for all RCRC families & our diverse community.



FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Shelter Cove Playgroup

Monday, October 5th, 10:30am-12:30pm

1555 Upper Pacific Dr., Shelter Cove

For more information, contact the Southern Humboldt Family Resource Center at 707-923-1147 or visit: <https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/>



TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING

Disability & Senior EXPO

Friday, October 9th, 10:30am-2:00pm

Sequoia Conference Center, 901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

For more information, contact Carolyn Webb at 707-445-8404 Ext. 701



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FOOD FOR PEOPLE

Distribution Centers

Tuesday, October 13th, 10:30am-12:30pm

First Baptist Church, 1055 Redway Dr., Redway

For more information, visit <https://www.foodforpeople.org/distribution>



FOOD FOR PEOPLE

Distribution Centers

Wednesday, October 14th, 10:00am-12:30pm

Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department, 50 Center St., Rio Dell

For more information, visit <https://www.foodforpeople.org/distribution>.



FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Redway Playgroup

Wednesday, October 21st, 10:00am-12:00pm

344 Humboldt Ave., Redway - Room 22

For more information, contact the Southern Humboldt Family Resource Center at 707-923-1147 or visit: <https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/>



HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Transition Fair 2026

Friday, October 23rd, 10:30am-2:00pm

Sequoia Conference Center, 901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

For more information, contact 707-440-9543



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BLACK HUMBOLDT

Community Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24th, 2:00-7:00pm

Mad River Brewery, 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake



FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Rio Dell Playgroup

Tuesday, October 27th, 10:00am-12:00pm

50 Center Street, Rio Dell

For more information, contact the Rio Dell Community Resource Center at

707-764-5239 or visit: <https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/>



MARIPOSA PLAY CENTER

Bilingual Storytime

Thursday, October 29th, 3:30-4:30pm

Mariposa Play Center, 1590 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka

For more information, contact Susan Hernandez at 707-445-0893 ext. 379

Registration required. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/3QioCaE>



REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Attend, Learn, and Share!

The first Friday of each month, 11:00am

October 2nd

Redwood Coast Regional Center, 1116 Airport Park Blvd., Ukiah

This group is in Spanish

For more information, contact 707-234-5415



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Additional events hosted by community partners can be found on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) platforms.

SHANÉL VALLEY ACADEMY

Health Fair

Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00am-1:00pm

1 Ralph Bettcher Dr., Hopland

For more information email Julie Alvarez at julie@shanelvalleyacademy.com



CITY OF UKIAH

Pumpkinfest 2026

Saturday, October 17th, 10:00am-6:00pm and Sunday, October 18th, 10:00am-4:00pm

Downtown Ukiah

For more information email pumpkinfest@cityofukiah.com



SCDD, RCRC, DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION, KONOCTI VISTA, & PINOLEVILLE POMO NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Job Fair 2026

Wednesday, October 21st, 10:00am-3:00pm

Ukiah Valley Conference Center, 200 S School St., Ukiah

For more information call 707-463-4778.



PEOPLE FIRST

Annual Halloween Party 2026

Saturday, October 24th, 5:00-8:00pm

Grace Lutheran Church, 200 Wabash Ave., Ukiah

For more information call Renee Dawson or Jesus Melchor at 707-462-3832 ext. 208 or 251.



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Please enjoy the following events hosted, sponsored or tabled by Redwood Coast Regional Center. (Click on flyer to enlarge)
Additional events hosted by community partners can be found on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) platforms.

SCDD, RCRC, DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION, KONOCTI VISTA, & PINOLEVILLE POMO NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Job Fair 2026

Wednesday, October 6th, 10:00am-2:00pm

2755 Mission Rancheria Rd., Lakeport

For more information call 707-463-4778.



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND RCRC

Blue Envelope event

Tuesday, October 6th, 1:00-3:00pm

Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin St., Lakeport

For more information email nhaydon@redwoodcoastrc.org



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND RCRC

Blue Envelope event

Wednesday, October 7th, 1:00-3:00pm

Austin Park, 14077 Lakeshore Dr., Clearlake

For more information email nhaydon@redwoodcoastrc.org



RCRC CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Client run public meeting

Wednesday, October 21st, 6:00-7:00pm

Zoom - Meeting ID: 882 2141 5395

Passcode: 413432 or Dial: 1 669 900 6833 (US)

Call your Service Coordinator for more information.



INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS

Celebrating Value and Talent
National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the talents and contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace. Join the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for our Lunch & Learn Series. Learn about employment, hear different perspectives, and explore resources that support inclusive workplaces.

Session 1- English Presentation
Thursday, October 1, 2026
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Setting the Stage: California's Employment First Policy, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Employment Advocacy
Zoom Link: [CelebratingValueTalent_session1](#)
Webinar ID: 873 4669 0570

Session 2-Presentation en Español
Thursday, October 8, 2026
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Preparando el Camino: La Política de Empleo Primero de California, la Ley de Innovación y Oportunidades para la Fuerza Laboral (WIOA) y la Defensa del Empleo
Zoom Link: [CelebratingValueTalent_session2](#)
Webinar ID: 869 4364 5499

Session 3 - English with Language Interpretation Upon Request
Thursday, October 22, 2026
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Voice of the Employer
Zoom Link: [CelebratingValueTalent_session3](#)
Webinar ID: 863 3053 1089

Session 4 - English with Language Interpretation Upon Request
Thursday, October 29, 2026
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Benefits Planning: Dispelling Myths & Launching Employment While Maintaining Benefits
Zoom Link: [CelebratingValueTalent_session4](#)
Webinar ID: 894 0117 2352

More information: Call 714-508-4405 or email info@scdd.ca.gov

California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Celebrating Value and Talent

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Celebrating Value and Talent

Setting the Stage: California's Employment First Policy - In English
Thursday, October 1, 12:00-1:30pm

[Zoom link](#)

Webinar ID: 873 4669 0570

Setting the Stage: California's Employment First Policy - In Spanish
Thursday, October 8, 12:00-1:30pm

[Zoom link](#)

Webinar ID: 869 4364 5499

Voice of the Employer - English with interpretation upon request
Thursday, October 22nd, 12:00-1:30pm

[Zoom link](#)

Webinar ID: 863 3053 1089

Benefits Planning - English with interpretation upon request
Thursday, October 29th, 12:00-1:30pm

[Zoom link](#)

Webinar ID: 894 0117 2352

SCDD

Exploitation of People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities: Recognize It. Understand It. Respond to It.

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 | 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Virtual (Zoom)

About the Presentation
People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) may be at increased risk for exploitation, abuse, manipulation, and victimization. This presentation explores different forms of exploitation, potential warning signs, barriers to reporting, and the important role families, professionals, and community partners can play in prevention. Through case studies and real-world scenarios, we will increase awareness, encourage conversation, and consider ways to recognize concerns and connect people with appropriate resources.

Topics Include

- Forms of exploitation: financial, sexual, caregiver, and online exploitation
- Grooming, coercion, manipulation, and human trafficking
- Behavioral and situational warning signs
- Barriers to recognizing, disclosing, and reporting exploitation
- Opportunities for prevention, intervention, and support

Who Should Attend
Professionals, families, caregivers, first responders, service providers, behavioral health professionals, educators, Adult Protective Services, and community partners who support or interact with people with IDD.

Presented by
Yolanda Cruz, Regional Manager
San Diego/Imperial Counties
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
yolanda.cruz2@scdd.ca.gov

Register on Eventbrite:
<https://bit.ly/4cU7orX>



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Exploitation of People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. Tuesday, October 6th, 11:00am-1:00pm

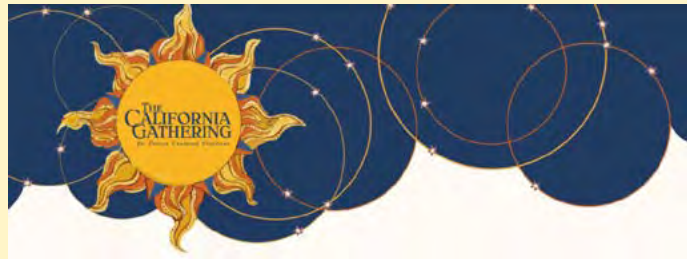
This presentation explores different forms of exploitation, potential warning signs, barriers to reporting, and the important role families, professionals, and community partners can play in prevention.

For more information contact Yolanda Cruz at yolanda.cruz2@scdd.ca.gov

REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/4cU7orX>



INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS



TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER & THE LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR PERSON CENTERED PRACTICES

**The California Gathering - Open Registration
Wednesday, October 7th-Thursdays, October 8th.
TLCPCP Trainer Development Day is Friday,
October 9th.**

The Marriott Santa Ynez, 555 McMurray Rd.,
Buellton, Ca.

Get ready to connect, collaborate, and cultivate change! Join us for three days of inspiration and deep learning as we explore how to embed person-centeredness into every aspect of our work and lives.

The California Gathering brings together a diverse community of people who value Person-Centered Thinking. In this space we all can connect, collaborate, create, and share

For more information email Jessica Chauvel at jessica@tri-counties.org or visit: <https://www.tri-counties.org/person-centered-practices/california-gathering/>

[SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE HERE.](#)

REGISTER FOR THE OCTOBER 7TH & 8TH:
[THE GATHERING - MAIN EVENT](#)

REGISTER FOR THE OCTOBER 9TH:
[TLCPCP TRAINER DEVELOPMENT DAY](#)



Community Conversations with Executive Director Aaron Carruthers

Join the State Council for updates on the issues that matter most to Californians with Intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

October 9, 1:30-2:30pm **901 Myrtle Avenue,**
Sequoia Conference **Eureka, CA 95501**
Center

Join us to:

- Hear about the Council's recent work and strategic planning
- Learn about state & federal policy developments
- Connect with other advocates
- Share your experiences to help shape our future priorities

**Your experience. Your values.
Your State Council. Driving change together.**

For more information: <https://scdd.ca.gov/community-conversations>
For access needs: northcoast@scdd.ca.gov; 707-463-4700

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**Community Conversation with Executive Director
Aaron Carruthers**

Friday, October 9th, 1:30-2:30pm

901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

Join the State Council for updates on the issues that matter most to Californians with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

For more information, visit <https://scdd.ca.gov/community-conversations>

For access needs email northcoast@scdd.ca.gov or call 707-463-4700.

RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org



INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS

SAVE THE DATE
**UCLA TARJAN CENTER FORUM
IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**
Friday, October 23, 2026

FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE

The 2026 UCLA Tarjan Center Forum aims to build discussions among people with neurodevelopmental disabilities, families, and professionals. Presentations from UCLA faculty, state leaders, community partners, and self-advocates will cover important topics and new research available.

Live interpretation will be available in ASL, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Tagalog. Zoom's auto-captioning will be available in 35 languages.

Visit the UCLA Tarjan Center website for more information at:
teams.somel.ucla.edu/tarjan

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!
Scan the QR Code or type in this url to your browser: bit.ly/4fs37Q
You can also email us at TarjanCenter@mednet.ucla.edu

UCLA Somel Institute
Tarjan Center

DDS Department of Developmental Services

UCLA TARJAN CENTER & DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

**Forum in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
Friday, October 23rd, 2026 at 9:00am via Zoom.**

The 2026 Tarjan forum aims to build discussions among people with neurodevelopmental disabilities, families, and professionals. Presentations from UCLA faculty, state leaders, community partners and self-advocates will cover important topics and new research.

For more information, email TarjanCenter@mednet.ucla.edu for further information.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**RAINBOW CONNECTION
SOCIAL GROUP**

INFORMATION ON REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES AND GENERIC RESOURCES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR REGIONAL CENTER CONSUMERS! (AGES 18+)
DO YOU WANT TO CONNECT WITH LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES?
DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY OR NEED LGBTQ+ RESOURCES?
JOIN US FOR THE MONTHLY LGBTQ+ SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH **6:30PM TO 8:00PM**

ZOOM INFORMATION
TELEPHONE: 16699006833
MEETING ID: 815 7811 4650
PASSCODE: RAINBOW

GROUP FACILITATOR
JAVIER ZEPEDA (HE/HIM)
LGBTQ+ SPECIALIST
(818) 756-6380
LGBTSUPPORT@NLACRC.ORG

MEETING DATES:
JANUARY 20, 2026
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
MARCH 17, 2026
APRIL 21, 2026
MAY 19, 2026
JUNE 16, 2026
JULY 21, 2026
AUGUST 18, 2026
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
OCTOBER 20, 2026
NOVEMBER 17, 2026
DECEMBER 15, 2026

DDS Department of Developmental Services
This event is sponsored by Language Access and Cultural Competency Funds.

For any required accommodations, please contact facilitator.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES Rainbow Connection Social Group

Join Javier Zepeda, LGBTQ+ Specialist for a Rainbow Connection Social Group on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm.

This social group is for Regional Center consumers ages 18+ and will focus on making connections with LGBTQ+ individuals with disabilities.

ZOOM Information:
Meeting ID: 815 7811 4650
Passcode: Rainbow
Telephone: 16699006833

For more information, email LGBTSupport@NLACRC.ORG

RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org



INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS



ARE YOU A PARENT OR CAREGIVER WHO RECEIVED AN EARLY START FAMILY OUTCOMES SURVEY? THIS IS A REMINDER TO PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY!



Surveys are due by Friday, October 30th

Use your cell phone camera & this QR code to open the survey.

Your feedback is important and helps us improve the Early Start Program.

Questions? Call 800-515-2229

CALIFORNIA EARLY START
for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Family Outcomes Survey

Each year the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) invites a randomly selected group of families who are currently participating in or have previously participated in the Early Start Program to take part in the Family Outcomes Survey (FOS). DDS will be sending the annual survey to thousands of families statewide on August 5, 2026 that will run through October 30, 2026.

Families will have the option to complete a paper-based survey, or an online survey through a website. In addition to a paper or online survey, a QR code will be provided so families can access the survey on their smartphones. The letter and paper survey are in English

and Spanish. The online and QR code-linked survey is available in simplified and traditional Chinese, English, Farsi, Hmong, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

The survey asks for some information about the family, including their child's birth date. All responses are kept anonymous and only are used after combining individual responses with other families' responses. If families need support completing the survey, they can reach out to the Service Coordinator for assistance.

If you received a Family Outcomes survey, you may fill it out online at the link below.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org



INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

HELP US SUPPORT FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

WHO WE ARE

DDCareConnect is a free service that helps families of children with developmental delays or disabilities connect to Regional Center services and community resources. Our goal is to make it easier for families to get the support they need by partnering with pediatricians and doctors across Northern and Central California.



WHAT WE OFFER FAMILIES

-  **Free Telephone Helpline:** Telephone support available in many languages to help families connect to and use Regional Center services and community resources.
-  **Public Website:** A website with information about Regional Center services, community resources, and materials for autism, developmental delays, and developmental disabilities.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Self-advocates with developmental disabilities
- Parents of children with developmental delays or disabilities

WHAT YOU WOULD DO

- Talk with us in short interviews and join 5-6 Zoom group meetings over about 18 months to share your experiences (about 10 hours total).
- Participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend for their time and valuable contribution.
- Your input will help us create better supports and resources for people and their families.

Funding provided by the California Department of Developmental Services Service Access and Equity Grant Program

Contact Us! 650-725-0555 ddcareconnect@stanford.edu



Scan the QR Code or click the link below to fill out our interest form!
<https://redcap.link/mckkbya>

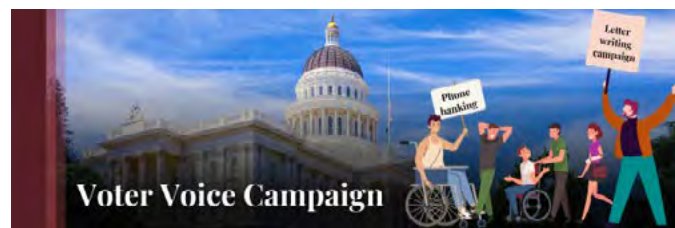
DDCARECONNECT

Help Support Families of Children with Developmental Needs

DDCareConnect in partnership with DDS and Stanford Medicine is looking for Self-advocates with developmental disabilities and Parents of children with developmental delays or disabilities to take part in several interviews totaling around 10 hours to help them create better supports and resources for people and their families.

Participants will receive a \$1000 stipend.

For more information contact 650-725-0555 or email ddcareconnect@stanford.edu.



ARCA'S

Voter Voice Campaign

ARCA has launched a new system designed to make it easier for our community to engage and take action on state and federal issues that affect the developmental disabilities system. Personal stories significantly influence the shaping and impact policy. We recognize the power our community holds when we unite for a common cause. ARCA's positions are representative of the needs identified by the regional centers and the communities they serve.

ARCA has introduced Voter Voice, a platform that will allow our community to engage in various campaigns benefiting California's developmental services system. This includes activities such as phone banking, writing letters, connecting with representatives, attending rallies, or simply remaining informed about legislative and budgetary issues.

To get involved and sign up for ARCA's Voter Voice System, visit the link below.

[VOTER VOICE CAMPAIGN](#)

RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org



INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS

FREE
Program for
residents of
California.



Have you heard?!

RL Therapy, on behalf of the Department of Rehabilitation, is offering AAC devices and support to get started!

Do you know someone who could benefit from a speech generating device?

Four Easy Steps!

- ✓ Schedule a demonstration
- ✓ Trial a device at home
- ✓ Choose the system that works best for you!
- ✓ Receive training and tips for using the device

To learn more call/text 619.567.9448 or sign up for a consultation by following the QR code!

DEPARTMENT of REHABILITATION
Employment, Independence & Equality

VoiceOptions
California's Statewide Communication Program

CA Voice Options: <https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/VoiceOptions>

RL THERAPY GROUP & DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION

Voice Options Program

Attention residents of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino counties seeking a voice generating communication device or AAC device.

RL Therapy Group is working with the Department of Rehabilitation to offer an opportunity to receive AAC devices free of charge through the Voice Options Program for qualifying individuals with a verified speech or language disability.

To get the referral process started or for additional information, call their office at 619-567-9448 or email referrals@rltherapygroup.com.

WHY AAC?	
	"AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) means all of the ways that someone communicates besides talking. People of all ages can use AAC if they have trouble with speech or language skills. Augmentative means to add to someone's speech. Alternative means to be used instead of speech." (American Speech-Language Hearing Association)
	AAC can benefit anyone who has difficulty communicating or being understood for: • one or more functions of communication and/or • in one or more environments and/or • with one or more communication partners
	AAC supports communication functions such as: • requesting • commenting • asking/answering questions • protesting • directing • expressing feelings • gaining attention • greetings/farewells • social bonding • negotiating • and more!
	How can AAC help? AAC is a tool to more fully realize a person's right to communicate, to actively participate, and to connect with those around them. A person can use many different types of AAC based on their needs (lite tech, mid tech, high tech, signing, writing, and more).
	The main goals of AAC are: • Successful communication • Autonomy • Self-Determination • CONNECTION with others
For more information or to speak with someone about our AAC evaluation and training program, please email us at referrals@rltherapygroup.com	

com. You can state your interest in pursuing a device through the VOP Program and provide your name and scheduling contact information.

To learn more about AAC devices, follow the video link below or visit the RL Therapy website.

[DDS - AAC DEVICES VIDEO](#)

[RL THERAPY GROUP WEBSITE](#)

RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org



REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER RESOURCES



STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION



Join Us to Learn...

- What is SDP*
 - Steps to Enroll in SDP
 - How SDP Works
 - Key Roles in SDP
 - The Principles of SDP
 - Your Next Steps
- * Self-Determination Program

For more Information and Registration
Click the link below:

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation>



POLI



KATIE



KION

...Are Self-Determined!

Learn if the Self-Determination Program is
Right for You!

A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION WILL BE PROVIDED.
AN SDP ORIENTATION IS REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN SDP.

SCDD AND DDS STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION

Want to learn more?

Contact your Service Coordinator at RCRC or a
Participant Choice Manager.

Participant Choice Managers

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties:

Alex Ostell

(707) 445-0893, ext. 317 or aostell@redwoodcoastrc.org

Mendocino & Lake Counties:

Sheila Keys

(707) 462-3832, ext. 254 or SKeys@redwoodcoastrc.org

LOCAL & REGIONAL RESOURCES

Find these and many more on our website at:
redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/local-resources/



First 5
HUMBOLDT



Redwood Coast Regional Center believes that access to
information, supports, and learning is necessary for all
people to achieve their life goals.

RCRC Newsletter

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Contact Us

Learn more about our services and programs reach out to an office near you.

Redwood Coast Regional Center Offices

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE

Ukiah Office | Corporate Office

1116 Airport Park Blvd.
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: (707) 462-3832
Fax: (707) 462-3314
Mendocino County

Fort Bragg Office

121-A Boatyard Drive
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 964-6387
Fax: (707) 964-0226
Mendocino County

Lakeport Office

180 3rd Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone: (707) 262-0470
Fax: (707) 264-6537
Lake County

Clearlake Office

14888 Olympic Dr.
Clearlake, CA 95422
Phone: (707) 621-6169
Fax: (707) 264-6537
Lake County

Eureka Office

525 2nd Street, Suite 300
Eureka, CA 95501
Phone: (707) 445-0893
Fax: (707) 444-3409
Humboldt County

Crescent City Office

1301-A Northcrest Drive
Crescent City, CA 95531
Phone: (707) 464-7488
Fax: (707) 465-4230
Del Norte County

Visit us online

WWW.REDWOODCOASTRC.ORG

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Redwood Coast Regional Center
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

RCRC Newsletter

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