



California's protection and advocacy system

**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**
1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

SB 555 ENSURES PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FROM DIVERSE COMMUNITIES HAVE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE ACCESS

SB 555 (Correa) ensures that regional centers meet their obligations to provide consumers from diverse communities with appropriate language access. As recipients of state and federal dollars, regional centers must comply with state and federal laws. If they do not comply with existing law, regional centers risk losing \$48,021,000¹ in federal funding. SB 555 makes clear that regional centers have obligations to comply with Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*20 USC. Sec. 1400 et seq.*) and California Government Code sections 11135-11139.7 and their implementing regulations.

Specifically, consistent with these laws and regulations, the key provisions in SB 555 reinforces that:

- Regional centers have the obligation to communicate and provide written materials in the family's native language during the assessment, evaluation, and planning process for the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Regional centers have the obligation to communicate in the individual's native language during intake, assessment, and planning process for the Individual Program Plan (IPP) and provide a copy of the IPP in the native language.

SB 555 defines native language as the language "normally used or the preferred language" of the individual, or family where appropriate, and requires that it is documented in the individual's IFSP/IPP.

Consumers and their families continue to find interactions with the regional centers challenging because of linguistic and cultural barriers. This bill ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities from diverse communities have language access to better participate in the regional center service system.

¹ http://www.dds.ca.gov/Budget/Docs/2013_2014RCMayRevision.pdf