

What IHSS/Regional Center Service Coordination Rules Mean for Your Next IPP Meeting

What's This About?¹

California is changing how regional centers, IHSS, and Medi-Cal work together. It helps to know what's changing before your next IPP meeting.

What's Changing

Three things are changing at once:

- Regional centers must confirm you've used other funding first for some support services. This includes IHSS, Medi-Cal, and your school district.
- IHSS, Medi-Cal, and regional centers now share more information. Your service coordinator may already know what you receive elsewhere.
- Regional centers will start using one statewide tool in 2026.

Why Now

It's part of California's Master Plan for Developmental Services. The Master Plan pushes for greater consistency across the state's 21 regional centers. This same effort supported the development of the new statewide IPP template. As well as DDS's plain-language planning workbooks.

What This Looks for Your Next Meeting

Expect your IPP meeting to spend more time on:

- Your current IHSS hours and what they cover
- Natural supports already in place — family, neighbors, community
- Whether generic or community resources have been tried first

This usually means more documentation and more questions. It does not necessarily mean a denial or reduction of service.

How to Prepare

1. Bring a written summary of your IHSS hours and what they cover.
2. Write down what IHSS doesn't cover. That gap is what regional center funding is for.
3. Ask directly: "Which of these services are you evaluating as payer-of-last-resort?"

¹ This article has been researched by Anthropic AI and reviewed and edited by Allen, Shea & Associates.

4. Ask when the new respite tool applies to your plan. Ask what changes because of it.
5. Ask for a copy of the data-sharing summary your coordinator uses. This way, nothing in the meeting surprises you.

What Hasn't Changed

The Lanterman Act still requires your IPP to reflect your goals, preferences and strengths. The meeting should always be run with you, not for you. If it doesn't feel that way, say so.

If You Disagree

If you disagree with a funding decision, you have options. You can ask for a supervisor review. You can request mediation. You can file for a fair hearing. Disability Rights California can help. Your local Family Resource Center can help too.

A Final Word

Coordination between IHSS, Medi-Cal, and regional centers was always supposed to happen. It's just getting more consistent and visible now. Knowing this ahead of time helps.

Sources

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