

Master Plan for Developmental Services - Summary of the First Annual Report

California released its Master Plan for Developmental Services — 167 recommendations for improving life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) — on March 28, 2025. Here's a summary of the first annual report.

Who wrote it: People with I/DD helped lead every one of the 167 recommendations, alongside family members, regional centers, service providers, and advocacy groups. State agencies supported the process, and community members wrote it.

The six things it's trying to improve:

- **Fairness** — where you live in the state should not determine what types of services you get. The plan wants to close that gap in services by removing language, cultural, and geographic barriers.
- **Your own choices** — tools and support for people to make their own decisions about their own lives.
- **Getting services faster** — shorter waits, simpler paperwork, and state systems that talk to each other.
- **Workforce** — a real investment in pay and training for direct support professionals, who are in short supply.
- **Decision-making** — clearer information for families about how decisions get made.
- **Data** — based on current data, the state often can't say whether a service is actually working or not. The plan wants that fixed.

What's happening:

- **LOIS** (Life Outcomes Improvement System) — the new case-management and payment system.
- **Language Access Plan** — all “vital documents” are now covered, with a public dashboard planned for 2026.
- **Defining “generic services”** — a clear statewide definition (due in 2026) in order to make consistent use of that term.
- **Employment Access Alignment** — a budget proposal that would settle which state department pays for job-seeking supports, instead of leaving families to sort it.

The full Master Plan Committee met twice in 2025 — August 5 and December 11 — reviewing all 167 recommendations, with progress reports from more than 30 organizations and a public tracking document open to updates year-round. It meets again in July and December 2026 to flag what needs new laws or new funding for the March 2027 report.