



# INLAND REGIONAL CENTER

*...valuing independence, inclusion and empowerment*

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## **Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

In preparation for the CPP/CRDP Plan for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025, Inland Regional Center (IRC) has determined the following priorities:

### **Senior Multi-Family/Affordable Housing Development**

IRC continues to work toward developing more affordable housing options for those individuals who live independently and struggle with the current housing costs, and long waiting lists for subsidized housing. IRC has an established need among our 62 and over individuals who would prefer to live independently, but do not have many affordable options.

IRC is requesting funding to support the development of 6<sup>th</sup> Street Seniors affordable housing complex in Coachella. Funding will be used for ten (10) affordable senior housing units to be set aside for individuals with developmental disabilities. IRC will partner with a non-profit Housing Developer Organization (HDO) to provide increased access to affordable housing opportunities for elderly individuals.

### **Deaf+ Day Program**

Currently IRC has a population of 3,261 Deaf +, individuals, of this total 2,761 are over 18, and a large percentage of this group do not have a current day program. Also due to the statewide issues with retaining staff, and the current rates not covering the cost of qualified, and proficient ASL fluent DSP's, current day program models do not fill this need.

IRC will also pursue funds to develop a new type of fully integrated day program for the Deaf+ community in Riverside County. This program will promote and offer a full range of support including but not limited to communication skills, employment/volunteer assistance and vocational training for Deaf Plus consumers. IRC hopes to surround these consumers with staff they can adequately communicate with to strive to meet their desire to connect with their community and enhance their independence. Should funding be approved by the Department of Developmental Services, IRC will work with a current-day program with knowledge to empower individuals within the Deaf Plus community that we serve. Transportation will be a component of the program as well.

### **Deaf+ Advocacy/Support Group**

The Regional Center system and it's vendored services can be difficult to navigate for individuals and their families. For the Deaf + community this can be harder to navigate, as the system and it's

services have not been conducive to support this population with a lack of ASL fluent resources and services. When it comes to navigating services, it has been well established that the support of those with similar experiences enhances the ability to navigate and further understand RC processes and services.

To assist this group, IRC is also seeking funds to create a parent advocacy/support cohort with the Center on Deafness Inland Empire (CODIE). The provider will conduct outreach and coaching to parents of individuals with developmental disabilities, with a focus on the Deaf Plus community. Groups will be held by a licensed individual, using ASL, covering topics such as how to empower consumers to request services to meet IPP goals, understanding latest technology advancements and navigating available resources. Should funding be approved by the Department of Developmental Services, IRC will work with CODIE to develop various group sessions to connect and educate them in areas such as education, public services, and exploring various services to ensure that they feel services are accessible and inclusive.

### **Socialization and Safety Training**

IRC has a growing population of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), specifically in the age range of 14 to 22 years old. Since 2020 the increase in social media, online based apps, and virtual meetings and schooling has increased. With this, our growing population has an increased vulnerability and need for safety and social training in this area.

IRC is seeking additional funds to create technology training Individualized Training Services for School Age/Transition Age individuals with ASD. Training on Social Skills to improve and enhance skills in: appropriate sexual behavior boundaries, independence and safety awareness, social media awareness, and communication skills to include non-verbal individuals.

**Based on stakeholder input, no other projects were identified as a priority for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.**

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ryan Hall, CPP and Affordable Housing Specialist by email, [rhall@inlandrc.org](mailto:rhall@inlandrc.org).