



*California's Protection & Advocacy System  
Toll-Free (800) 776-5746*

## Purchase of Service Data: Far Northern Regional Center

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*December 2013, Pub #F082.01*

In 2012 a new law was added to the Lanterman Act. The new law, Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4519.5, was needed because of concerns that regional centers did not spend money equally on consumer services based on race and ethnicity. The law requires the following actions.

First, regional centers and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) now have to work together to gather information or “data” on how regional centers buy services and supports for the communities they serve. The data is called “Purchase of Service” (POS) data because it shows how much was spent by each regional center on services for groups of people, by race, ethnicity, language and disability. It also shows the number of people who are not receiving any POS dollars.<sup>1</sup>

Second, regional centers, including Far Northern Regional Center (“FNRC”) have to put their POS data on their websites no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Third, every regional center must schedule public meetings or “stakeholder” meetings, to explain the data and how the money was spent. These stakeholder meetings must happen no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. At least 30 days in advance, you should be able to know the date of

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<sup>1</sup> The data includes only services and supports that are paid by the regional centers and does not include generic resources such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medi-Cal, the school system, etc. It also does not include “contracted services” which are services purchased by contract for groups of people, like transportation or some supported employment services.

FNRC's stakeholder meeting and look at FNRC's POS data by visiting its website. You can also see FNRC's (and all other regional centers') POS data and stakeholder meeting dates by going to DDS' website at:

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/RC/POSData.cfm>

The next section of this document will talk about FNRC's racial and ethnic populations and give some information about the POS data collected by FNRC on money it spent in 2011-2012.

#### Racial and Ethnic Population and Percentage of Total:

- White: 5,692 (78.4% of the population; get 83.9% of FNRC's POS \$)
- Hispanic: 694 (9.6% of the population; get 6.3% of FNRC's POS \$)
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 172 (2.4% of the population; get 1.2% of FNRC's POS \$)
- Black: 170 (2.3% of the population; get 2.8% of FNRC's POS \$)
- Native American: 144 (2.0% of the population; get 1.8% of FNRC's POS \$)
- Other: 390 (5.4% of population; get 4.0 of FNRC's POS \$)

#### Average Amount of Money Spent Per Person by Race or Ethnicity

FNRC reported how much money they spent on average per person organized by race and ethnicity. On average, FNRC spent more money on African Americans but less money on other communities of color than spent on people from the White community:

- Black: \$13,136
- White: \$11,949
- Native American: \$10,003
- Hispanic: \$7,401
- Asian/Pacific Islander: \$5,827
- Other: \$8,367

#### Average Amount of Money Spent Per Person by Their Language

FNRC reported on how much money they spent on average per person organized by the language spoken by the person. People who speak English, on average, received more money than people whose language is Spanish or an Asian Language:

- English speakers: \$11,503
- Spanish speakers: \$5,937
- Asian language speakers: \$4,066
- Other languages: \$9,982

#### Percentage and Number of People by Race or Ethnicity Who Did Not Receive Any POS Dollars (\$)

The data below shows the percentage and number of people within each of the different racial or ethnic groups that did not receive any POS dollars from FNRC.

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 34.9% (60 individuals get zero POS \$)
- Hispanic: 25.9% (180 individuals get zero POS \$)
- Native American: 22.2% (32 individuals get zero POS \$)
- Black: 21.8% (37 individuals get zero POS \$)
- White: 18.6% (1,058 individuals get zero POS \$)
- Other: 26.9% (105 individuals get zero POS \$)

#### What You Can Do to Help Change the Way the Regional Center Purchases Services and Supports:

- If you think your regional center may not be spending POS money equally based on race or ethnicity, go to your regional center's stakeholder meeting and share your concerns.
- Ask your regional center to hold focus groups (meeting with your community) so you can give your opinion on ways your regional centers can improve services to your community.
- Ask your regional center to offer surveys in languages that your community understands about how the regional center can better serve your community.

- Ask your regional center to form a committee (sometimes called “task force” or “workgroup”) to come up with ways to improve how services and supports are provided to your community including:
  - Review regional center policies to decide which are helpful and which are not.
  - Determine if the community understands their right to a fair hearing (also called “due process” rights) and ways to educate the community about such rights.
  - Determine whether the regional center provides services that actually meet the needs of your community and suggest ways it can be improved.
  - Identify more culturally appropriate services that your community may be missing out on, such as services for adults who live with their parents.
- Get involved--join an existing committee created by the regional center.
- Prepare questions/proposals on ways to improve the system and share them with DDS.
- Stay connected with Disability Rights California, your Clients’ Rights Advocate, or Area Board/State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) for information about POS data and meeting.

Clients’ Rights Advocate:

Kimberlee Candela; 1-530-345-4113;

[kimberlee.candela@disabilityrightsca.org](mailto:kimberlee.candela@disabilityrightsca.org)

Area Board 2/SCDD:

Sarah May; 1-530-895-4027; [ab2@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:ab2@scdd.ca.gov)

Disability Rights California:

1-800-776-5746; [www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

To see regional center’s purchase of service data for 2011-2012 broken down by age groups, please go to the following link:

<http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/F09901.pptx>

*Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.*