

## 2020-2021 Budget Priorities

Disability Voices United is the only California advocacy organization exclusively directed by and for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members. We advocate for choice and control over our lives, meaningful outcomes that matter to us, and systems that are equitable and accountable to us. Thank you for considering our major priorities for 2020-21.

### REDUCE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

*Demand progress and require transparency and independent evaluations of the programs funded by the \$44 million the legislature appropriated to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in services*

**BACKGROUND:** For the past four years, the Legislature has authorized \$11 million a year to fund programs and strategies to reduce disparities. While DDS is requiring the funded programs to provide data on the effectiveness of their programs, there is no oversight to ensure that the data is accurate and no rigorous independent evaluations to determine whether the programs were in fact efficacious. Moreover, there has been no assessment of whether the grants have targeted regional centers with the greatest levels of disparities, and DDS has not tied the receipt of funds to a demonstration of program effectiveness. In many cases, the grants were distributed with limited input from the most underserved communities. Finally, little attention has been paid to the great differences between regional centers in the amount of services provided.

DVU analyzed the most recent service data and found that in 19 out of 21 regional centers, the disparities have actually worsened since the grants began. In two regional centers, they have stayed the same. To continue to throw money at this problem without seeing any clear progress makes no sense for the state – and more importantly, makes no sense for the long-underserved individuals and their families.

**REQUEST: The legislature should require DDS and regional centers to produce comprehensive and comparative data on the progress they have made in reducing racial and ethnic disparities, including the extent to which any improvements were brought about by the programs funded by DDS. The Department should be required to use more rigorous, evidence-based, data-driven processes for selecting grants and target areas with the greatest levels of disparities. Grant recipients should be required to collaborate with independent evaluators to rigorously assess whether, and if so what extent, the projects funded succeed in reducing disparities. The legislature should also analyze data that compares regional centers and explore solutions to these inequities.**



**Disparities Actually Increased in Last 2 Years Despite \$33 Million Invested**

Service Expenses for Hispanics as a Percentage of Service Expenses for Whites

Over First Three Years of Disparity Grants

Red - Disparities increased Yellow - Disparities stayed the same.

<b>Regional Center</b>	<b>2015-16 Before grants</b>	<b>2018-19 After 3 years of grants</b>
Alta	48%	45%
Central Valley	44%	38%
East Los Angeles	39%	35%
Far Northern	59%	54%
Frank D. Lanterman	47%	47%
Golden Gate	35%	32%
Harbor	34%	32%
Inland	53%	49%
Kern	49%	44%
North Bay	37%	31%
North Los Angeles County	51%	41%
Redwood Coast	46%	41%
East Bay	39%	31%
Orange County	45%	36%
San Andreas	41%	37%
San Diego	50%	45%
San Gabriel/Pomona	40%	39%
South Central Los Angeles	20%	18%
Tri-Counties	49%	46%
Valley Mountain	48%	48%
Westside	53%	50%