The Lanterman Act

California's Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act requires that regional centers provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities

The law provides those with development disabilities the means of integrating into community life and experience everyday living available to people without disabilities. The Lanterman Act supports individuals of any age or degree of disability.

The Lanterman Act defines developmental disability as:

- 1.A disability that is the result of mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and other conditions that are similar to mental retardation and require services that are similar to those required by individuals with mental retardation.
- 2. Originates prior to age 18.
- 3.is expected to continue over the person's lifetime
- 4. Is not solely physical in nature.
- 5.Is substantially handicapping
- ■According to California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 54001. "Substantial Handicap means a condition which results in major impairment of cognitive and/or social functioning. The extent of the impairment is such that the person will require interdisciplinary planning and coordination of special or generic services to assist the individual in achieving maximum potential."