



Kern Regional Center
3200 N. Sillect Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93308
www.kernrc.org

REQUEST FOR INTEREST (RFI)

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Issued by: **Kern Regional Center**

Date Issued: September 3, 2025

Open Until Filled

I. Purpose

Kern Regional Center (KRC) is seeking interest from qualified individuals, organizations, or agencies to become vendors to provide American Sign Language (ASL) Training and Support services to the deaf and hard of hearing individuals served by KRC.

Services provided under this service code are meant to help individuals improve or develop their expressive and receptive communication. The service is intended to help individuals improve functional communication skills through the use of formal ASL and to reduce the use of home signs.

II. About Kern Regional Center

Kern Regional Center is one of 21 private, nonprofit regional centers contracted by the State of California through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to coordinate community-based services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

KRC serves over 16,000 individuals in Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties. Our counties cover approximately 22,000 square miles with a population of over 945,000 people. [Click here to view A Guide to California's Regional Center Services System in multiple languages.](#)

III. Scope of Services/Service Description

Service providers who will provide this service will be classified as language training and support whose service is meant to improve or develop expressive and receptive communication using American Sign Language (ASL). This service is designed to assist

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individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind to improve functional communication skills by improving the use of formal ASL and reducing the use of home signs. The ASL trainer can also train the direct support professionals and family members while the individual is present, to promote more cultural and linguistic understanding of the natural environment.

These services may also work with individuals and providers to incorporate use of and learning through Alternative Augmentative Communication devices, ASL online resources and online ASL content to increase engagement when learning ASL. ASL Training and Support services are not designed to replace any other services, including care and supervision. They should be used to help facilitate improved communication between service providers or family members and the person receiving services. This service shall not supplant or replace the need for formal interpretation services.

ASL Training and Support services can be delivered in any setting where an individual lives, works, participates in recreation, or accesses the community for other purposes.

IV. Minimum Qualifications

Applications will only be accepted from providers who meet the following:

1. Have language proficiency from an accredited or nationally recognized institution such as, but not limited to, the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI), Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI), or other recognized language proficiency body.
 - a. Organizations offering ASLPI or SLPI assessments:
 - i. Bridges Oregon: [National Sign Language Assessment \(NSLA\) – Bridges Oregon](#)
 - ii. Gallaudet University: [American Sign Language Proficiency Interview \(ASLPI\) | Gallaudet University](#)
2. Be assessed proficient to provide at least superior level ratings or higher on ASLPI, SLPI ratings scale.
3. Possess the ability to have a fully shared conversation with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics, and excellent comprehension in receptive skills.
 - a. Demonstrate the use of a very broad sign language vocabulary, near native-like production, fluency and prosody and excellent use of sign language grammatical features, and classifiers.

V. Proposal Preparation Guide

The following information is provided to assist the applicants in submitting their letter of interest. All the links indicated are to be used as resources in identifying the types of services, staffing requirements and rates for services:

1. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services:
 - a. For more information about Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and resources, visit [Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Resources : CA Department of Developmental Services](#).
2. Rates:
 - a. For the current rate of reimbursement for this service, visit [ASL Training and Support](#).
 - b. For information about the Quality Incentive Program published by DDS, please visit [Quality Incentive Program \(QIP\) : CA Department of Developmental Services](#).
3. General Information
 - a. For more information on the regional center service system, please visit [California Department of Developmental Services](#).
4. For more information on advocacy and initiatives within the regional center service system, please visit [Association of Regional Center Agencies | Advocating on Behalf of Californians with Developmental Disabilities and the Regional Center System](#)

VI. Submission Requirements

Interested parties are asked to submit the following:

1. Interest Letter can be found on KRC website [Letter of Interest](#)
2. Cover Letter
 - a. Introduction, contact information, and summary of your interest
3. Organizational Background or Resume, 2 Recommendation Letters and Copies of certifications

Please submit your complete packet by email to the Interestletter@kernrc.org.

Please submit any questions by email to:

- Veronica Bedolla; VBedolla@kernrc.org

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VII. Interested Applicants

We will be hosting two informational meetings to answer questions for interested applicants. One will be held on 9/17/25 and another on 9/24/25. The meetings are not required for those interested or who wish to apply but attendance is strongly recommended. Please see the links below to attend the meetings. Both meetings will be held in English with ASL interpretation available. For interpretation in any other language please contact Veronica Bedolla by 9/10/2025.

Sep 17, 2025, 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: ASL Training and Support Services Informational Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89269634371?pwd=WUZYPkVATk3VbnATU6VJveXK686hM.1>

Webinar ID: 892 6963 4371

Passcode: 094925

Sep 24, 2025, 2:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: ASL Training and Support Services Informational Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84645817453?pwd=HMIkxGSN3wPqRz24M8usHklgOSTuvC.1>

Webinar ID: 846 4581 7453

Passcode: 217972

VIII. Terms and Conditions

1. Submitting an interest packet does not guarantee vendorization.
2. Vendorization does not guarantee referrals.
3. The provider must meet all state, federal and regional center requirements for vendorization and qualifications as specified under minimum qualifications.
4. Prospective vendors must be willing to obtain insurance coverage as requested by KRC.
 - a. KRC requires that **all** vendors obtain general, professional, sexual abuse and non-owned auto liability insurance prior to vendorization. Ongoing vendors must maintain current insurance policies at all times. This is important to protect your interests, as well as the interests of KRC and the individuals you serve. **All** liability insurance is required for one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. At all times while vendor is providing services, vendor shall (i) cause KRC to be listed as a "Certificate Holder" on all of vendor's insurance policies, (ii) cause KRC to be named "Additional Insured" on the vendor's general liability, sexual abuse & molestation and automobile policies and (iii) provide evidence of such insurance documentation to KRC. The requirement includes professionally licensed, certified, or registered vendors such as physicians, psychologists, social workers, therapists, nutritionists and other types of consultants.