STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 03/25)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit Number	Department
2026-27	4300	Department of Developmental Services

Hyperion Budget Request Name	Relevant Program or Subprogram
4300-050-BCP-2026-MR	4140015 – Operations, 4149001 – Program Administration

Budget Request Title
Equitable and Consistent Needs Assessment

Budget Request Summary
The Department of Developmental Services requests $11.5 million ($9.1 million General Fund) in 2026-27, $9.4 million ($7.1 million General Fund) in 2027-28, and $2.8 million ($2.4 million General Fund) in 2028-29 and ongoing thereafter to support implementation of standardized intake and assessment practices and modernization of the current evaluation tool, the Client Development Evaluation Report. The proposal includes 9 permanent headquarters positions, two year limited-term regional center resources, and contract support for tool development, information technology infrastructure, training, and statewide change management activities.

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed
☒ Trailer Bill Language ☐ Budget Bill Language ☐ N/A	Chapter 8, Division 4.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, commencing with Section 4752

Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? ☒ Yes ☐ No *If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.*	Department CIO Jim Switzgable	Date 5/14/2026

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No.N/A **Approval Date:** N/A

Project Approval Document: N/A **Total Project Cost:** N/A

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Steven Pavlov	5/14/2026	Michi Gates	5/14/2026
Department Director	**Date**	**Agency Secretary**	**Date**
Pete Cervinka	5/14/2026	Debra Cooper	5/14/2026

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Christopher Odneal	5/14/2026

A. Problem Statement

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) requests $11.5 million ($9.1 million General Fund) in 2026-27, $9.4 million ($7.1 million General Fund) in 2027-28, and $2.8 million ($2.4 million General Fund) ongoing thereafter to support implementation of standardized intake practices and modernization of the current evaluation tool, the Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER). The proposal includes 9 permanent headquarters positions, two year limited-term regional center resources, and contract support for tool development, information technology infrastructure, training, and statewide change management activities.

The Department administers the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and oversees the coordination and delivery of services and supports for more than 500,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through California's 21 regional centers. Regional centers are responsible for determining eligibility for services, conducting intake and assessment activities, developing Individual Program Plans (IPPs) and coordinating services and purchasing services and supports based on an individual's needs and goals identified in their IPP.

In recent years, the Department has undertaken several statewide standardization efforts pursuant to Chapter 192, Statutes of 2023 (Senate Bill 138), including implementation of a standardized IPP template, statewide vendorization procedures, standardized race, ethnicity, and language data definitions, respite assessment processes, and intake process improvements. These efforts are intended to improve consistency, equity, transparency, and statewide data quality across the developmental services system.

As part of these ongoing modernization and standardization efforts, the Department is evaluating and updating processes related to standardizing intake and assessment practices. Regional centers currently use the CDER to document diagnoses, evaluate adaptive functioning, and support eligibility and service planning activities. The CDER is not a standardized clinical assessment tool and has not been comprehensively modernized to align with current clinical standards, person-centered practices, or statewide data and reporting needs since its inception in 1977, with the most recent changes occurring in 2014. Modernization will enable the evaluation of needs, monitoring of outcomes, statewide trend analysis, and will support data-informed policy and service planning decisions that increase access, equity, and consistency in the developmental services system.

B. Justification

The Department is requesting resources to support implementation of standardized intake and assessment practices statewide, modernization of the CDER, and development of a more consistent and person-centered framework for evaluating developmental service needs. Current intake and assessment practices vary across regional centers, which may contribute to inconsistencies in service access, and statewide data collection.

The existing CDER tool also has operational and programmatic limitations. The tool relies on outdated terminology and rating structures, lacks standardized metrics, and was not designed to support modern person-centered planning practices or statewide data analysis. In addition, the Department's current systems and processes limit the ability to consistently evaluate needs, monitor outcomes, identify statewide trends, and support data-informed policy and service planning decisions. Requested resources include:

Headquarters Position Resources

The Department requests 9 permanent headquarters positions to support development and implementation of standardized intake guidance, assessment modernization activities, statewide monitoring, policy development, training coordination, information technology integration, and ongoing system support activities. Requested program resources include 1 Supervisor I and 4 Analyst III positions to support statewide consistency efforts, guidance development, implementation activities, and monitoring functions. Requested information technology resources include 1 Information Technology Supervisor II, 2 Information Technology Specialist II, and 1 Information Technology Specialist I positions to support assessment tool development, information technology infrastructure, system integration, data management, reporting capabilities, and ongoing technical support.

Resource history related to the Departmental Divisions involved, see below:

Statewide Clinical Services Division Resource History

(Dollars in thousands)

Program Budget	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**
Authorized Expenditures	$3,178	$4,154	$4,994	$5,809	$6,091
Actual Expenditures	$3,373	$4,016	$5,192	$5,992	TBD*
Authorized Positions	28.5	38.5	43.5	49.0	52.0
Filled Positions	28.2	33.1	43.5	42.0	TBD*
Vacancies	0.3	5.4	0.0	7.0	TBD*

*FY 2025-26 remains open, full year actual data available at year-end.

Information Technology Division Resource History

(Dollars in thousands)

Program Budget	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**
Authorized Expenditures	$7,649	$8,822	$11,021	$11,216	$11,823
Actual Expenditures	$7,094	$8,110	$10,300	$11,574	TBD*
Authorized Positions	77.0	88.0	106.0	103.0	104.0
Filled Positions	64.8	73.7	98.0	102.0	TBD*
Vacancies	12.2	14.3	8.0	1.0	TBD*

******FY 2025-26 remains open, full year actual data available at year-end

Headquarters Contract and Information Technology Support

The request includes $3 million General Fund in 2026-27 and $1 million General Fund ongoing thereafter for contracted support, information technology infrastructure, system development, tool evaluation, integration activities, and specialized implementation support. These resources will support assessment tool evaluation and acquisition activities, customization and integration efforts, data storage and reporting capabilities, and training and implementation support on an ongoing basis.

Two Year Limited Term Regional Center Operations Resources

The request includes two years of regional center operations funding equivalent to 3 positions at each of the 21 regional centers to support training, transition activities, implementation of standardized practices, change management, and local coordination efforts during rollout of updated intake and assessment processes and tools.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

Establishing standardized intake and assessment practices and modernizing the Department's assessment tools will improve statewide consistency, data quality, transparency, and the Department's ability to evaluate service needs, monitor outcomes, and support person-centered service planning.

D. Outcomes and Accountability

By organizing the work into structured phases—research, community and regional center engagement, tool selection, customization, system integration, training, and rollout—the project will improve the accuracy, consistency, and usefulness of assessment data statewide. This includes implementing a modern tool, increasing ease of use for regional center staff, and enhancing the Department's ability to produce meaningful individual and system level insights for planning and decision making.

Dedicated staff will lead activities such as completing the baseline CDER analysis, coordinating engagement sessions with regional centers and the community, managing tool evaluation and vendor communication, integration of the tool into the regional center environment, implementing data management plan, developing and delivering training, and supporting the phased rollout and post implementation reviews. These staff-driven tasks directly support metrics such as the number of stakeholders engaged, tools assessed, training sessions delivered, system integrations completed, and ongoing data reports produced. With appropriate staffing, the Department can track progress at every phase and make sure the modernization addresses the adoption of a modernized needs evaluation tool.

The requested staffing will allow the department to adequately research and analyze current practices at regional centers relating to intake and engage with subject matter experts. The Department will design a standardized process and provide guidance, training, and technical assistance to regional centers to support consistent and standard implementation. Post-implementation, the Department will monitor regional centers' implementation of the standardized procedures and provide ongoing technical assistance.

E. Implementation Plan

The Department will recruit and onboard headquarters staff and begin procurement and contracting activities following approval of the requested resources. Initial implementation activities will include evaluation and selection of updated assessment tools, development of standardized intake and assessment guidance, information technology infrastructure and integration activities.

Regional centers will utilize the limited-term resources to support training, transitional activities, local implementation, and change management efforts. The Department also will conduct stakeholder engagement, develop statewide guidance and training materials, pilot assessment tools and processes as appropriate, and monitor implementation activities to support statewide consistency.

F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

N/A

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

BCP Title: Needs Evaluation and Service Provision Alignment

BR Name: 4300-050-BCP-2026-MR

Budget Request Summary

Personal Services

Personal Services	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Positions - Permanent	0.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Total Positions	**0.0**	**9.0**	**9.0**	**9.0**	**9.0**	**9.0**
Earnings - Permanent	0	917	917	917	917	917
Total Salaries and Wages	**$0**	**$917**	**$917**	**$917**	**$917**	**$917**
Total Staff Benefits	0	546	546	546	546	546
Total Personal Services	**$0**	**$1,463**	**$1,463**	**$1,463**	**$1,463**	**$1,463**

Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5301 - General Expense	0	18	18	18	18	18
5302 - Printing	0	9	9	9	9	9
5304 - Communications	0	9	9	9	9	9
5306 - Postage	0	9	9	9	9	9
5320 - Travel: In-State	0	27	27	27	27	27
5322 - Training	0	9	9	9	9	9
5324 - Facilities Operation	0	99	99	99	99	99
5340 - Consulting and Professional Services - External	0	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
5346 - Information Technology	0	108	108	108	108	108
53XX- Special Items of Expense	0	6,695	6,695	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	**$0**	**$9,983**	**$7,983**	**$1,288**	**$1,288**	**$1,288**

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Budget Request	**$0**	**$11,446**	**$9,446**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source - State Operations	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
0001 - General Fund	0	4,401	2,401	2,401	2,401	2,401
0995 - Reimbursements	0	350	350	350	350	350
Total State Operations Expenditures	**$0**	**$4,751**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**
Fund Source - Local Assistance						
0001 - General Fund	0	4,681	4,681	0	0	0
0995 - Reimbursements	0	2,014	2,014	0	0	0
Total Local Assistance Expenditures	**$0**	**$6,695**	**$6,695**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Total All Funds	**$0**	**$11,446**	**$9,446**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
4140015 - Operations	0	6,695	6,695	0	0	0
4149001 - Program Administration	0	4,751	2,751	2,751	2,751	2,751
Total All Programs	**$0**	**$11,446**	**$9,446**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**	**$2,751**