

Inland Regional Center

<https://www.inlandrc.org/eligibility/>

Early Start Intake: Riverside County: (909) 890-4763

Counties Served: The Inland Regional Center serves the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino.

Infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) with a developmental delay or disability, or who are at risk for a developmental delay, may qualify for Early Start services. The Early Start program ensures that infants/toddlers with delays and/or disabilities receive early intervention services using a coordinated, family focused approach.

Early Start eligibility criteria is defined by [Section 95014](#) of the California Government Code, as at least one of the following:

1. a developmental delay of at least 33% in one or more areas of either cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing
2. an established risk condition of known etiology, with a high probability of delayed development
3. high risk of having a substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors

To begin the Early Start Intake process a parent, or legal guardian*, must contact IRC's Early Start Intake department. During this phone call, the Intake Coordinator will gather information about the applicant, in the following areas:

- fine and gross motor abilities
- cognitive development
- communication
- self-help and adaptive abilities
- social and emotional development

Following the phone referral, the Intake Coordinator will present the applicant's developmental characteristics and any other relevant information to the Early Start eligibility review team. This team is comprised of professionals specializing in early childhood development and can include, Early Start Program Managers, physicians, and Infant Service Coordinators.

The Early Start eligibility review team will review the applicant's referral, including any existing developmental assessments and/or medical information that was provided.

If the team determines that the applicant should continue in the Intake process, an assessment will be scheduled. These assessments are performed by a team of two Early Start professionals, such as therapists, infant teachers, or Infant Service Coordinators. To determine the applicant's eligibility, at least two developmental assessment tools will be used. After all assessments have been completed, results and eligibility will be discussed.

If the applicant is eligible for Regional Center Early Start services, the team will develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) that outlines needs, goals, and services.

If the applicant is not found eligible for Regional Center Early Start services, the team will explain IRC's appeals process. The team will also provide referrals to resources and programs that may be beneficial to the applicant and their family.