Developmental Disability Definitions





Federal Definition

Starts before age 22 and likely to continue

Limitations in 3 of these areas:

- Self-care
- Talking to and understanding other people
- Learning and remembering
- Getting around on your own
- Self-direction/ making decisions
- Living independently
- Support yourself and handle money



California Definition

Starts before age 18 and likely to continue

Must have 1 of these labels/diagnoses and must be considered a significant disability:

- Intellectual disability
- Epilepsy (seizures)
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- Condition like intellectual disabilities that requires treatment and support similar to that needed for person with intellectual disabilities

"Significant disability" was amended to mean limitations in 3 or more major life activities as listed in federal definition.