

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER

Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) is a non-profit agency which provides a wide variety of services to individuals with developmental disabilities in order to help them become full participants in their communities. GGRC is under contract to the California State Department of Developmental Services to serve San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo county residents.¹

Description of Services

GGRC is the County's main provider of assessment and case management services to people with developmental disabilities. GGRC's role is to identify client service needs and to facilitate linkages with other agencies so that clients receive needed services. GGRC is able to purchase services for clients that are not available from other publicly funded agencies. For example, GGRC is often the only source of funding for infant development programs, behavior management services, day treatment programs and transportation to day programs, out-of-home placement, and respite care and many clients go to GGRC specifically to obtain these services. Other services commonly required by clients include occupational, physical, and speech therapies and medical equipment. The type and number of services received by GGRC clients varies widely, depending on the client's age and condition.

Eligibility Criteria

There are two sets of eligibility criteria for receiving services from GGRC, depending on the client's age. There are no financial eligibility requirements to receive services from GGRC - all income groups qualify.

- I. An individual over 3 years of age is eligible to receive services if he/she:
 - Is disabled due to mental retardation, Cerebral Palsy, epilepsy, autism, or other conditions requiring treatment similar to that required by mentally retarded persons,
 - Has had the disability prior to the age of 18,
 - Is likely to continue with the disability indefinitely,
 - Has a disability that is substantially handicapping.
- II. An individual under 3 years of age is eligible if he/she has a delay in development which is likely to lead to a developmental disability.

Client Demographics

In July 1997, GGRC served a total of 743 San Francisco children and youth.²

By Age and Race/Ethnicity. Seventy-one percent (528) of GGRC clients were ages 3 to 18 and 29% (215) were up to 3 years old. Asians comprised 22% of clients, followed by Latino (18%), African-American (17%), and White (15%). Race/ethnicity was unknown for 28% of clients. The racial/ethnic mix differs within the two different age groups served by GGRC. African-Americans led the 0 to 36 months group (25%), followed by Latino (18%) and Asians (12%). In contrast, Asians led the 37

¹ GGRC is one of 21 regional centers serving every county in the state. Since 1969, as a result of state legislation, regional centers were established to meet the needs of families of persons who were mentally retarded. Legislation passed in 1994 expanded the population served by regional centers to include individuals who are substantially handicapped by cerebral palsy, epilepsy or autism. This does not include all children and youth in San Francisco with developmental disabilities, and does not include former clients on "inactive" status with the agency.

² These include clients who were receiving services from GGRC and were on "active" status with the agency. GGRC also provides services to adults. All demographic data provided by GGRC.

months to 18 years group (27%), followed by Whites (19%) and Latinos (18%). (The reason for the differences in racial/ethnic mix is under review by GGRC staff and is not known at this time.)

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER CLIENTS, AGES 0-18, BY AGE GROUPS AND ZIP CODE, SAN FRANCISCO, AS OF JULY 31, 1997						
RACE/ETHNICITY	AGE GROUP					
	0-36 Months		37 Months -18 Years		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Asian	25	12%	142	27%	167	22%
Latino	38	18%	97	18%	135	18%
African-American	53	25%	72	14%	125	17%
White	10	5%	102	19%	112	15%
Mixed/Other	21	10%	61	12%	82	11%
Filipino	9	4%	38	7%	47	6%
Pacific Islander	1	<1%	2	<1%	3	<1%
Native American	2	1%	0	0%	2	<1%
Unknown	56	26%	14	3%	70	9%
TOTAL	215	100%	528	100%	743	100%

Source: Golden Gate Regional Center, August 1997

Primary Language and Neighborhood of Residence. The primary languages spoken by GGRC clients include English (49%), followed by Spanish (14%), Chinese (11%), Vietnamese (2%), Tagalog (2%), Russian (1%), Cambodian (1%), and others (6%). Over half (52%) of clients came from five neighborhoods in the City, as defined by zip code, including Ingleside-Excelsior (113), Inner Mission (105), Bayview-Hunter’s Point (65), Visitacion Valley (57), and Sunset (48). (Refer to the Appendix for more detailed data.)

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER CLIENTS,
AGES 0-18, BY AGE GROUPS AND ZIP CODE,
SAN FRANCISCO, AS OF JULY 31, 1997**

<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	0-36 Months	37 Months - 18 Years	TOTAL
94112	Ingleside-Excelsior	33	80	113
94110	Inner Mission	27	78	105
94124	Bayview Hunters Point	32	33	65
94134	Visitacion Valley	17	40	57
94122	Sunset	10	38	48
-	All Others	96	259	355
-	TOTAL	215	528	743

Source: Golden Gate Regional Center, August 1997

Family Income. The agency does not track family income of its clients, since family income is not considered in determining eligibility for services.

Client Diagnoses. A client's diagnosis is considered when determining eligibility for clients ages 37 months to 18 years. Among these clients, mental retardation is the most commonly occurring diagnosis, identified among 70% (371) of clients. A diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy occurs in 29% (156) of clients, followed by epilepsy/seizures (28% or 115), and autism (16% or 83). Forty percent of clients have more than one diagnosis identified.

Duration of Services.

Clients are enrolled with GGRC for varied periods of time, with some clients receiving services during their entire lifetime and others for less than a year. GGRC is required to serve all clients meeting the eligibility criteria with no time limits. The agency may not refuse to serve eligible clients for any reason.