



# ALA COSTA CENTERS

Programs serving people with  
Autism and those with an  
Intellectual and/or  
Developmental Disability.



# ALA COSTA CENTERS

Founded in 1972 by a group of parents seeking services for their special needs children

Ala Costa Centers initially began providing After School Services, Social/ Recreation Services, and Respite Services.

In 2008, Ala Costa Centers began to serve Adults in a Community Based Program- ACT- Adult Community Training.

In 2009, Ala Costa Centers developed a program to serve the Berkeley Unified School District, transition age students (18-22)- ACAT



# MISSION

*Empower individuals with developmental disabilities to find, use and express their unique strengths and talents.*

*Provide each person at Ala Costa with the skills and opportunities they need to become successful and productive members of society, and to encourage them to have some fun along the way.*

*Offer support and guidance to families who face the financial and emotional challenges of raising a child with developmental disabilities.*



# AFTER SCHOOL SERVICES

Serves School Aged Children (6-22)

Locations and Enrollment

- Berkeley- approximately 30 students (55 capacity)
- Alameda- 12 students, with 3 entering soon (15 capacity)- began in 2012.

Ala Costa Centers provides safe programs and environments where students can be themselves, have fun, learn, and thrive with student centered programs that promote independence and self-determination.

The models of service and curriculum are designed to help students develop skills in socialization, functional communication, leisure/ recreation, self-determination, and life skills leading toward independence.

250 days of operation per calendar year, and summer programming



# ADULT SERVICES

Ala Costa Centers offers two Adult Services; the ACAT and the ACT programs. The ACAT (Ala Costa Adult Transition) program serves young adults ages 18 to 22 with developmental disabilities from the Berkeley Unified School District and the North Region SELPA. The Adult Community Training (ACT) program serves adults 22 years or older.

Located in Berkeley- approximately 42 active participants in ACT, 20 students in ACAT

Community Based Instruction is used, which prepares participants in the least restrictive environment to aid in a successful development of skills and lead toward a more successful transition to independence and an improved quality of life.



# AFTER SCHOOL PRINCIPLES/ TENETS

Promotion of Health and Safety Skills

7 primary domains of learning

- Communication
- Motor Skills
- Leisure
- Self- Help/ Self- Care
- Social/ Adaptive
- Pre-Vocational
- Behavior

Promotes Self- Determination and Informed Decision Making- student directed service



# ACAT/ACT METHODOLOGY/PRINCIPLES

Treat the participants as adults

Acknowledge that people learn differently

Presumption of Competence

Dignity of Risk

Communication is not limited to just words

Promotion of Self- Determination

- Choice Making
- Informed Decision Making
- Problem Solving
- Self- Regulation
- Self-Awareness
- Self- Advocacy



# APPLYING TO PROGRAM- REFERRAL PROCESS: AFTER SCHOOL

Regional Center clients

Case Management Referral from RCEB

Tour and Visit

Intake Process

Evaluation of Student Support Needs

Acceptance and Determination of Start Date or Denial





# APPLYING TO PROGRAM REFERRAL PROCESS: ACT

Regional Center Client/ Participant- ACT

Case Management Referral from RCEB

Tour and Visit

Intake Process

Evaluation of Student Support Needs

Acceptance and Determination of Start Date or Denial

Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) placement- ACAT



# APPLYING TO PROGRAM REFERRAL PROCESS: ACAT

Berkeley Unified School District Student or North Region SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team Agreement to offer of FAPE- Free and Appropriate Public Education

Tour and Visit

Intake Process with Observation

Evaluation of Student Support Needs

Acceptance or Denial- typical start date in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the School Year



# PRIMARY FUNDING

Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB)

- Department of Developmental Services

California Department of Education- CHAN contract

98% of income/revenue generated is provided from the State of California

Until this most recent Budget Year, the IDD community has been woeful underfunded, receiving only 2 marginal increases since 1996.

FY 19/20 will provide some relief, but the system is floundering, and capacity/access to services is shrinking



# HOW THE COMMISSION CAN HELP

Local advocacy efforts- municipal and legislative leaders

Providing contacts to Ala Costa Centers and the overall community of Alameda to improve access to services and address the overall issue of capacity for current and future recipients of services related to disability

Ala Costa Centers needs a new site- the location at Littlejohn is too small, and that is the biggest impediment to program growth.

Educate the public on the issues involving funding related to adult services. Currently, there are 330,000 people receiving services in the IDD community statewide as adults, but there are currently 774,197 students receiving Special Education Services in the State of California as of CDE data taken from 2017-2018.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/sr/cefspeced.asp>



# CALIFORNIA SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT 2017-2018

Autism: 112,318

Deaf-blindness: 115

Deafness: 3,242

Emotional disturbance: 24,936

Hard of hearing: 10,633

Intellectual disabilities: 43,855

Multiple disabilities: 7,161

Orthopedic impairment: 10,453

Other health impairment: 97,426

Specific learning disability: 297,468

Speech or language impairment:  
161,485

Traumatic brain injury: 1,618

Visual impairment: 3,487

TOTAL- 774,197 students ages 6-22.