

# ADVOCACY TOOLKIT:

## DDS LETTERS & CSHA RESOURCES

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has issued guidance letters on various topics, and CSHA has also created resources to support grassroots advocacy for Early Intervention professionals.

**The following letters and handouts can be used by CSHA members to advocate for local improvements:**



### SLPAS IN EARLY START

**SLPAs can provide Early Start services!**  
Title 17 language was updated in 2019, & SLPAs were added as EI service providers. Regional Centers cannot ban SLPAs from providing Early Start services.

[Click this link for the letter from DDS:](#)

## SLPA LETTER

### USING THE 116 CODE

There are several billing codes used in Early Start, and the 116 code, (*Specialized Therapeutic Services*), pays the highest rate.

As of August 2023, SLPs with at least 1 year of experience can apply to vendor with this code.

[Click this link for the letter from DDS:](#)



## 116 CODE LETTER



### CF/RPES IN EARLY START

In 2023, CSHA's EI Committee created a chart to support the use of SLP-CF/RPES in Early Start. Regional Centers cannot ban SLP-CF/RPES from providing Early Start services, they are licensed SLPs.

[Click this link for the CSHA Chart:](#)

## CF/RPE CHART

### ADVOCACY HANDOUT

The CSHA EI Committee put together a talking paper in 2023 that has been used with stakeholders to advocate for increased rates and improved policies.

[Click this link for the Advocacy Handout:](#)



## CSHA

## EI TALKING PAPER