

November 20, 2025

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

# ASSEMBLY BILL 91, MIDDLE EASTERN & NORTH AFRICAN INCLUSION ACT

D-2025-Case Management-011

---

## What to Know

The 2024-25 Assembly Bill 91, the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Inclusion Act was recently signed into law. This new law requires more detailed data collection about ethnicity in the MENA categories.

## What's Changing

This directive does not have any effect on the services individuals and families receive from regional centers.

This directive requires regional centers to include additional specific subgroups in the existing MENA category when they collect race & ethnicity data. The new subgroups are:

- Afghan
- Amazigh or Berber
- Assyrian
- Bahraini
- Circassian
- Djiboutian
- Jordanian
- Kurdish
- Kuwaiti
- Libyan
- Mauritanian
- Moroccan
- Omani
- Sudanese
- Somali
- Turkish

Individuals who are in one or more of these groups will also be counted in the MENA category. The new MENA subgroups will become part of regional centers' data systems no later than January 1, 2028, allowing time for computers to be programmed.

## Questions?

For more information, please contact the Department's Data Task Force at [dtf@dds.ca.gov](mailto:dtf@dds.ca.gov).

## Learn More

- [Existing Race & Ethnicity Categories and Subcategories](#)
- [Full Text of Assembly Bill 91](#)