



Paycheck Protection Program and Absence Payments

Q1. Is the provider required to return absence payments to the regional center if a provider received COVID-19 relief funding, including but not limited to, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance Program, or any other similar federal or state programs?

A1. It depends on the provider's individual circumstances. Repayment or offsetting of claims received from the regional center is only required if:

1. The funds received from PPP or other programs are forgiven, i.e., the loaned funds do not require repayment *and*
2. The funds received from PPP or other programs are for the same expenses reimbursed by the regional center.

Q2. What are some examples of where regional center absence payments and PPP funds might be covering the same expenses?

A2. Some examples include expenses such as maintaining employee payroll and benefits, rent, and utilities costs that did not increase as a result of the State of Emergency.

Q3. What if a PPP loan is not "forgiven" (i.e., the loaned funds requires repayment); does the provider need to repay or adjust any claims made to the regional center?

A3. No. Regional center claims only need to be adjusted if funds received from other federal or state sources are forgiven or do not require repayment.

Q4. What if a provider experienced a reduction in payroll while claiming absence payments?

A4. Beginning with claims submitted for April 2020, continuation of employee payroll was required during the period absences were claimed. If any reduction in payroll occurred due to employee layoffs or furlough days for direct service providers, claiming must be reduced by the same level as the reduction in payroll. See the Department's [May 7, 2020 directive](#).

Q5. If a provider was reimbursed for consumer absences during the State of Emergency, are there any requirements to support these claims?

A5. Yes, as with all claiming, service providers must maintain documentation, subject to review and audit, to support claims during the State of Emergency. See the Department's [May 7, 2020 directive](#) for more information.

Q6. Can a provider continue to bill for consumer absences?

A6. No, billing for consumer absences as a result of the COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on August 31, 2020, in accordance with the Department's [July 17, 2020](#) and [August 31, 2020](#) directives.

