

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1215 O Street, MS 8-30
Sacramento, CA 95814
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(833) 421-0061



October 7, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: RESTORATION OF CAMPING, SOCIAL RECREATION AND OTHER
SERVICES PER WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION
4648.5

Effective July 1, 2021, changes to Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4648.5 restores regional center authority to fund camping services and associated travel expenses; social recreation activities; educational services for children three to 17, inclusive, years of age; and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music. Regional centers are advised to take proactive steps to inform their community of the changes to W&I Code section 4648.5.

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) requests that regional centers provide information to service coordinators and conduct outreach to consumers, families, providers and local community organizations to facilitate awareness about the availability of these services. Outreach and information sharing should extend to individuals and families who may not typically use these types of services or other regional center purchased services, but who may benefit from receiving these services. In developing outreach activities, regional centers must consider actions that will increase awareness and facilitate the sharing of information with non-English speaking individuals and communities of color. Service coordinators should discuss the availability of these restored services and related consumer needs during the Individual Program Plan meeting, consistent with W&I Code section 4646(a).

Each regional center must submit an outreach plan to the Department. Additionally, each regional center must revise its purchase of service (POS) policies, as necessary, to reflect restoration of funding for these services and promote compliance with this change in statute and submit them to the Department for review and approval. The outreach plan and revised POS policies are due to the Department by December 15, 2021.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

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The Department will translate this correspondence into the identified threshold languages and will post the English and translated versions on our website. If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact your Primary Liaison or the Office of Community Operations at (833) 421-0061.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

ERICA REIMER SNELL
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies