

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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October 10, 2022

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM – EMPLOYMENT ACCESS

The Department of Developmental Services' (Department) September 23, 2022 [letter](#) established the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) for service providers. This correspondence provides information regarding service providers' participation in the Employment focus areas of the [QIP](#) and guidelines and requirements for the first phase within the QIP (Enclosure A), which is designed to increase placement and continued employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in competitive integrated employment (CIE).

Quality Measure and Desired Outcome

The intended outcome of this measure is to increase participation in CIE for all adults who want CIE. The Department will calculate and measure the number of adults achieving CIE and retaining employment through information submitted by service providers participating in the QIP.

Incentive Amounts

Effective July 1, 2022, the incentive payments for each milestone reached are:

- 1) After a service provider assists four consumers to achieve CIE placement, for each consumer thereafter:
 - a) An incentive payment of \$500 for achieving CIE placement after 30 consecutive days; and
 - b) An incentive payment of \$1,000 for continued employment for six (6) months.
- 2) For each consumer who exits an internship through the Paid Internship Program (PIP) pursuant to Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4870:
 - a) An incentive payment of \$500 for achieving CIE placement after 30 consecutive days; and
 - b) An incentive payment of \$500 for continued employment for six (6) months.

This applies to consumers who participated in a PIP July 1, 2021, or later.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

- 3) For each consumer who exits sub-minimum wage employment [14(c) certificate]:
 - a) An incentive payment of \$500 for achieving CIE placement after 30 consecutive days; and
 - b) An incentive payment of \$500 for continued employment for six (6) months.

This applies to consumers who were earning sub-minimum wage July 1, 2021, or later with an employer holding a certificate issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

These incentive payments will only apply to milestones reached on or after July 1, 2022. As shown on Enclosure B, a consumer's CIE placement may be applicable to more than one type of incentive payment described above and are in addition to the CIE Incentive Payment program pursuant to W&I Code section 4870.

Data Validation and Incentive Payment Processing

Service providers may submit a claim for Purchase of Service to the regional center, along with documentation to validate eligibility for the incentive payment including the duration of the consumer's employment. Regional centers shall verify the required duration in the job placement for each incentive payment before funds are provided to the service provider.

For incentive payment milestones that are reached on or after July 1, 2022, the following sub-codes should be utilized:

- 1) After a service provider assists four consumers to achieve CIE placement, for each consumer thereafter:
 - "QI304" for placement after 30 consecutive days
 - "QI6M4" for continued employment for six (6) months
- 2) For each consumer who exits an internship through the PIP pursuant to W&I Code section 4870:
 - "QPI30" for placement after 30 consecutive days
 - "QPI6M" for continued employment for six (6) months
- 3) For each consumer who exits sub-minimum wage employment [14(c) certificate]:
 - "QSM30" for placement after 30 consecutive days
 - "QSM6M" for continued employment for six (6) months

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Eligibility for Incentive Payments

Any service provider who assists a regional center consumer in achieving CIE placement will be eligible for an incentive payment as described above. This QIP is not limited to service providers who primarily provide employment services and supports.

Training and Information

The Department will schedule training webinars throughout Fall 2022 to explain to service providers the details of these measures, reporting requirements and logistics, and issuance of incentive payments. The Department strongly encourages service providers to attend these training sessions and participate in the QIP.

Details of incentive payments for subsequent phases of these measures will be sent in a future directive from the Department. Questions regarding the QIP or incentive payments should be emailed to QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosures

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