

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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October 10, 2022

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM – EMPLOYMENT CAPACITY

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), which is designed to expand systemwide capacity to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in achieving competitive integrated employment (CIE).

**Quality Measure and Desired Outcome**

The desired outcome of this measure is to increase the number of service provider employees who are certified as trained employment specialists through the Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) Basic Employment Services, ACRE Basic Customized Employment Services, or as Certified Employment Support Professionals (CESP). The Department will calculate the number of service provider employees who become certified or re-certified as trained employment specialists through information submitted by service providers participating in the QIP.

**Incentive Amounts**

Effective July 1, 2022, this quality measure has three incentives:

- 1) An incentive payment of \$1,900 for the service provider for each employee who becomes certified or re-certified in ACRE Basic Employment Services or ACRE Basic Customized Employment Services.
- 2) An incentive payment of \$550 for the service provider for each employee who becomes certified in CESP training.
- 3) An incentive payment of \$300 for the service provider for each employee who becomes re-certified in CESP.

**Data Validation and Incentive Payment Processing**

These incentives are for service providers who assist their employees to achieve these certifications and re-certifications which includes but is not limited to assuming the associated expenses for trainings, exams, and employee wages. Service providers

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must maintain documentation to validate the expenses and the employee's certification or re-certification completed on or after July 1, 2022. Guidance for submitting claims for incentive payments is forthcoming.

### **Eligibility for Incentive Payments**

Any service provider who assists an employee to become certified as a trained employment specialist 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 the payment process for this incentive and incentive payments for subsequent phases of these measures will be sent in future directives from the Department. Questions regarding the QIP or incentive payments should be emailed to [QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov](mailto:QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

BRIAN WINFIELD  
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Nancy Bargmann, Department of Developmental Services  
Carla Castaneda, Department of Developmental Services  
Pete Cervinka, Department of Developmental Services  
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