



NANCY BARGMANN
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Developmental Services
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.dds.ca.gov



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Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Prevention and Wellness Measure, CY 2023 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Information and Eligibility to Participate

1. Q. What is the Quality Incentive Program (QIP)?

- A. The [Quality Incentive Program \(QIP\)](#) is designed to improve consumer outcomes, service provider performance, and the quality of services. Participating service providers that meet or exceed quality measures developed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) with input from stakeholders, are eligible for incentive payments.

2. Q. Is participation mandatory?

- A. No. Participation in the QIP or any of the quality measures is voluntary.

3. Q. Which service or residence types can participate in the Prevention and Wellness QIP measure covering data from calendar year (CY) 2023?

- A. The following service codes and residence types can participate in CY 2023 data collection:
- Svc Code 113, Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Needs (ARFPSHN)
 - Svc Code 900 & 901, Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes (EBSH)
 - Svc Code 904, Family Home Agency (FHA)
 - Svc Code 096, Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE)

4. Q. Why are some residential facilities not included in the quality measure?

- A. The Prevention and Wellness quality measure is currently limited to ARFPSHNs, ESBHs, FHAs, and RCFEs. Additional residential facilities may be included in future phases of the Prevention and Wellness quality measure.

5. Q. If my ARFPSHN facility participated in the Prevention and Wellness quality measure last year, will we be automatically included and sent an invitation?

- A. Yes. Invitations and links will be emailed to the ARFPSHN facilities that participated in calendar year (CY) 2022 last year. If provider information needs to be updated, please send an email to QIPquestion@dds.ca.gov.

6. Q. Why is my facility/home being asked to participate?

- A. All qualifying residential facilities or homes with individuals that have lived in the facility/home for at least six (6) months are being invited to participate. If you have questions about whether your facility/home should participate in the Prevention and Wellness quality measure or want to verify eligibility information, please email QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov.

7. Q. What individuals should my facility/home report on?

- A. Providers should submit information about all individuals residing in an eligible facility or home for at least six (6) months during calendar year (CY) 2023. Homes receive an incentive for each resident for whom they submit the requested data.

8. Q. A resident lived in my facility/home for six (6) months or more but passed away. Should my facility/home still submit a report on that individual's medical information?

- A. Yes. To qualify and receive an incentive payment, please report information for any individual that lived for six (6) months or more at the facility/home during CY 2023 even if they passed away during CY 2023.

9. Q. What are the eligibility requirements to participate?

- A. Licensed ARFPSHN, RCFE, FHA, and EBSH service providers are eligible to participate and receive an incentive payment for this measure if they are in good standing. Specifically, as of the date of the information submitted to the Department, the service provider must not have received a corrective action plan(s) or sanction(s) for a health and safety violation under [Title 17, section 56054 \(a\)\(1\)](#) in calendar year 2023 from a regional center. Service providers also must not have received a Type A deficiency in calendar year 2023 from the Department of Social Services' Community Care Licensing Division (CCL) as evidenced by information posted on the [CCL Transparency website](#). At the time payment of the incentive is made, the vendor must meet eligibility criteria for vendorization under [Subchapter 2, Chapter 3, Division 2 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations](#), as evidenced by being a current regional center vendor.

Quality Measure and Desired Outcome

10. Q. What is the Prevention and Wellness quality measure?

- A. The [Prevention and Wellness quality measure](#) is an initiative specifically designed to incentivize individual preventative health services for DDS residential consumers to receive timely primary care, dental care, and other ongoing preventative screenings at intervals recommended by the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#).

11. Q. What are the recommended USPSTF frequencies for medical screenings?

- A. Physical Exam – the recommended frequency for all adults (18 years & older) is one exam per year.

Dental Exam - the recommended frequency for all adults (18 years & older) is one exam per year.

Colorectal Cancer Screening – the recommended frequency for all adults (45-75 years old) varies depending on the screening test. The Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) is recommended once a year. A Flexible Sigmoidoscopy test is recommended once within the past 5 years. A Colonoscopy is recommended once within the past 10 years.

Mammogram Screening – the recommended frequency for all women (50-74 years old) is once within past 2 years.

Pap Smear Test – the recommended frequency for all women (21-65 years old) is once within past 3 years.

12. Q. Why are the health screening intervals recommended by the CDC different than the health screening intervals described in the Prevention and Wellness quality measure?

- A. The recommended frequencies for the preventative health screening and exams for this quality measure come from the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#).

13. Q. Do we upload documentation for the preventative health screenings or exams?

- A. No. If additional information is required to validate screening data submitted in the data collection form, DDS will contact the service provider during the validation phase.

14. Q. Are alternative tests included as options for recommended health screenings?

- A. No. Alternative test or alternative screenings are not options for reporting preventative health screenings in CY 2023.

Incentive Amounts

15. Q. What is the incentive amount for reporting?

- A. For each individual who lived in the home for six months or longer in CY 2023, an incentive of \$1,000 will be paid per individual for data submitted by the provider regarding *all* preventative health screenings recommended for that individual.

16.Q. What is the incentive amount for timely screenings?

- A.** For ARFPSHNs only, the following additional incentive(s) will be paid for each reported individual who received preventative health screenings within the USPSTF's recommended screening intervals:
- a) \$200 for an annual physical exam;
 - b) \$200 for an annual dental exam; and
 - c) \$200 total for Pap smear, mammogram, and/or colorectal screenings if required based on age and gender.

17.Q. Are there any exceptions to submitting an exam or screening?

- A.** Yes. In *limited* circumstances individuals may be excluded from all or part of the incentive calculation, if:
- A preventative health screening is medically contraindicated or
 - If an individual, a family member, or their conservator/legal guardian declines a health screening.

18.Q. Would an individual's inability to tolerate a health screening or exam, qualify as a reason to be exempt from that screening or exam?

- A.** Yes. One of the acceptable exceptions is if an individual, a family member, or their conservator/legal guardian declines to have a health screening or exam administered to the resident. The submission form includes an option to indicate the type of exemption or the reason for exemption.

19.Q. Will the incentive payment go to the agency or individual home/facility provider?

- A.** The incentive will be paid to the vendor ID associated with the home/facility provider.

If you have questions about the information that is associated with your home/facility, please email QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov

Required Reporting Criteria

20.Q. How will the information be collected?

- A.** In January 2024, all FHA, RCFE, EBSH, and ARFPSHN providers will receive an email from the Department inviting them to participate in this QIP measure. The email will include a link to the electronic reporting form posted on the Department's QIP website. Providers will have at least 30 days to complete reporting for each home.

21.Q. When will the link for the online collection form be sent out?

- A.** All invitations to eligible facilities and homes will be sent out by January 16, 2024.

22. Q. When must the information be submitted by?

A. All information for qualified residents must be submitted by March 12, 2024.

23. Q. For what periods of time is DDS collecting health screening information?

A. Participating service providers are asked to submit preventative health screening occurring through December 31, 2023.

24. Q. What information is being collected?

A. Vendor Information

Name and ID Number

Consumer information

UCI, Name, Gender, Date of Birth, Admission Date, Deceased Date (if applicable)

Medical screening information

Physical, Dental, Colorectal, Mammogram, and Pap Smear

25. Q. What if I have no information to report for a resident that lived for six months or more in my facility or home? Will I qualify for an incentive payment?

A. If the service provider does not have information to report for the resident's health screening, then there is an option for each screening that can be selected – "No Screening Data to Report for this Resident." Unfortunately, there will be no incentive for this resident.

26. Q. If a health screening or exam is not completed within the recommended interval, will my facility/home still receive an incentive for reporting health screening information for that resident?

A. Yes. The incentive for reporting will be applied to all ARFPSHN, EBSH, FHA or RCFE residential facilities/homes if all applicable health screenings (according to resident's gender and age) are reported.

As described above, an ARFPSHN will receive additional incentives for health screenings occurring within recommended time intervals.

Data Validation and Incentive Payment Processing

27. Q. How can I verify or update the information for my residential facility or home?

A. To verify/update information or ensure that you are recognized as an ARFPSHN, EBSH, FHA or RCFE service provider, please send an email to QIPquestion@dds.ca.gov

28.Q. When will the incentive be disbursed?

- A. After the data submitted by service providers has been reviewed and validated, DDS will instruct regional centers to issue incentive payments, as appropriate, to each facility by fall 2024.

29.Q. How will the incentive be disbursed?

- A. Incentive payments will be sent by your vendoring regional center and will be sent in the same manner you currently receive payments. Please contact your regional center for specific questions about how you will receive the incentive payment.

30.Q. If my facility/home is not vendored during CY2024 will my facility be able to participate?

- A. No. To process incentive payments, service providers must be vendored at the time the incentive payment is issued in CY2024, including meeting vendorization regulations under [Subchapter 2, Chapter 3, Division 2 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.](#)

For questions about eligibility for this measure, please send an email to QIPquestion@dds.ca.gov

For updates on vendoring status, please contact your provider organization's vendoring regional center.

Training and Information

31.Q. I was not able to attend one of the four training webinars in October 2023. Is there a recording of the training webinar?

- A. Yes, the training webinar recording can be accessed [here](#).

32.Q. Will there be a training webinar on how to report Prevention and Wellness health screening information using the online portal?

- A. No. A User Guide will be provided to service providers in the email from the Department inviting them to participate in this QIP measure.