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Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Early Intervention Measure, CY 2024 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Information and Eligibility to Participate

Q1: What is the Quality Incentive Program (QIP)?

A1: 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.

Q2: What is the Early Intervention quality measure?

A2: The [Early Intervention quality measure](#) is an initiative specifically designed to ensure that Early Start children and families receive rapid access to early intervention services.

Q3: Is participation mandatory?

A3: No. Participation in the QIP or any of the quality measures is voluntary.

Q4: Why is my organization being asked to participate?

A4: All qualifying Early Intervention vendors providing services to a child less than three years of age in the Early Start program are invited to participate. If you have questions about whether your organization should participate in the Early Intervention quality measure or want to verify eligibility information, please email QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov.

Q5: What are the eligibility requirements to participate?

A5: To participate in this measure, service providers must meet the following requirements:

1. Provide a service listed in the table of included service codes in the answer to question 7 below.
2. Begin providing a newly authorized early intervention service to a child less than 3 years of age in the Early Start program between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.
3. Not be subject to a current corrective action plan or sanction by a regional center as identified in the Department's December 1, 2023 [directive](#).

Q6: If my organization is not vendored during calendar year (CY) 2024, will it be able to participate?

A6: No. Before authorizing payment and at the time payment of the incentive is made, the provider must:

1. Meet the eligibility criteria for vendorization under [California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 2, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2](#), as evidenced by being a current regional center vendor.
2. Not be subject to a current corrective action plan or sanction by a regional center as identified in the Department’s December 1, 2023 [directive](#).

Q7: Which service providers can participate in the Early Intervention quality measure covering calendar year (CY) 2024?

A7: Early Intervention service providers that begin providing a newly authorized service beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 using any of the [following service codes](#) are eligible to participate in this quality measure:

Service Code	Service Description
028	Socialization Training Program
048	Client/Parent Support Intervention Training
056	Interdisciplinary Assessment
063	Community Activities Support Services
102	Individual or Family Training Services
103	Specialized Health, Treatment & Training Services
108	Parenting Support Services
112	Communication Aides
116	Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services
612	Behavior Analyst
615	Behavior Management Assistant
620	Behavior Management Consultant
625	Counseling Services
672	Education Psychologist
678	Teacher of Special Education
693	Music Therapist
706	Audiology
707	Speech Pathology
720	Dietary Services
730	Hearing & Audiology Facility
742	Licensed Vocational Nurse
744	Registered Nurse
745	Orthoptic Services
750	Orthotic & Prosthetic Services
772	Physical Therapy
773	Occupational Therapy
785	Clinical Psychologist
805	Infant Development Program
810	Infant Development Specialist
851	Child Day Care
854	Home Health Agency
862	In-Home Respite Services Agency

Incentive Amounts

Q8: What incentive amounts are available for providing rapid Early Intervention services?

A8: For every newly authorized service, eligible Early Intervention service providers can receive an incentive amount based on the First Instance of Service according to the [table](#) below:

Number of Days from Purchase of Service (POS) Authorization by Regional Center to Date of Delivery for First Instance of Service	Incentive Amount
Within 16-20 days	\$100
Within 11-15 days	\$200
Within 1-10 days	\$300

Q9: Will the incentive payment go to the individual service provider?

A9: The incentive will be paid to the vendor number associated with the Authorized Purchase of Service. If you have questions about the information that is associated with your organization, please email QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov

Information Used to Determine Incentive Payments

Q10: How will the information be collected?

A10: Three months after the end of each calendar quarter (i.e., June for the quarter ending March 31), DDS will review available data (Client Master File, POS data, and eBilling information) to determine eligible newly initiated early intervention services to a child, who at the time of the POS authorization, is less than three years of age and in the Early Start program.

Q11: What timeline is DDS using to determine incentive payouts?

A11: Purchase of Service (POS) and eBilling claim data from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, will be used to determine incentive payments. Please note there is a lag in eBilling such that it may be several months for a POS claim to appear in the eBilling record. If the Department does not have information about a particular first date of service that is eligible for an incentive payment, the Department will authorize regional centers to make any additional incentive payments for a prior quarter when the data becomes available after a subsequent quarter.

Q12: What incentive amount can my organization expect if there are multiple service codes for [one newly authorized POS](#)?

A12: If a child has separate authorizations for each intervention service (such as Infant Development Program [service code 805], speech therapy, occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy), the service provider is eligible for one incentive payment for each authorized service, totaling four maximum incentive payments.

If a child has one authorization (such as Infant Development Program, service code 805) which includes subcodes for other intervention services (such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or infant development specialist), the

service provider is eligible for one incentive payment for each service identified in the authorization, totaling four maximum incentive payments.

If a child has one authorization (such as Infant Development Program, service code 805) without subcodes for other intervention services, the service provider is eligible for one incentive payment for the authorized Infant Development Program service.

Q13: What information is being collected?

A13: Service providers are not required to submit data to the Department or to regional centers to participate in this incentive. The Department will use data from the Client Master File, POS data, and eBilling information to determine eligible newly initiated early intervention services to a child who at the time of the POS authorization is less than three years of age and in the Early Start program. The Department then will use these data to determine the length of time from the POS authorization by a regional center for that newly initiated service, to the date that the corresponding service first was provided.

Q14: Will my organization be able to review the collected Early Intervention data?

A14: Yes, DDS will issue to each regional center an accounting record of newly initiated services receiving an incentive payment, as evidenced by an eBilling claim. Regional centers can make this record available to service providers.

Data Validation and Incentive Payment Processing

Q15: How can I verify or update the information for my organization?

A15: To verify/update information or ensure that you are recognized as a qualified Early Intervention service provider, please send an email to QIPquestion@dds.ca.gov.

Q16: When will the incentive be disbursed?

A16: Qualifying incentive payments based on the tiered amounts will be issued quarterly by Regional Centers (RC) to each eligible service provider.

Q17: How will the incentive be disbursed?

A17: 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.

Training and Information

Q18: Will there be additional training webinars on Early Intervention quality measure, eligibility criteria and incentive payments?

A18: No, but resources (FAQ, Directive and enclosures) and a recording of the training webinar held on May 1, 2024 will be available for providers and the general public [here](#) on the Early Intervention tab.