



## Rate Model Implementation FAQs

Any questions or concerns, email [ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov).

### Q1. What is a Rate Model?

A1. A Rate Model is a standardized rate setting methodology that will be used throughout the regional center system. Rate Models for most service codes were developed as part of the Rate Study conducted in 2019 to improve transparency into service utilization and promote a stable and high-quality supply of providers. The rate models with updated cost components as of January 2024 can be found here:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-models/>

### Q2. Where can I learn more about the Rate Study?

A2. [Information on the Rate Study submitted to the legislature in March 2019 can be found here.](#)

### Q3. Where can I submit questions, comments and concerns regarding rate reform?

A3. Please send your e-mail to: [ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov).

### Q4. Where can I find the Rate Model rates?

A4. [The rate models with the updated cost components as of January 2024 are located here.](#)

### Q5. How will I know the updated rate for my program?

A5. [Rate models and rates are located here.](#) Providers should work with their vendoring regional center to confirm their rate.

### Q6. Since the Rate Study was completed in 2019, when will the rate models be updated?

A6. The [current rate models as of January 2024](#) are published on the DDS website, by regional center. Rate models are scheduled to be updated July 2024 with updated cost components.



**Q7. When will service providers receive rate increases?**

A7. Rate Model calculations are completed. For those below the Rate Model, incremental rate adjustments occurred in April 2022 and January 2023. The final rate adjustment will occur January 2025.

**Q8. Will there be an ongoing annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) wage adjustment, or changes to the IRS mileage rates after 2025?**

A8. Updates to the rate models after 2025 would be subject to the state budgeting process.

**Q9. Will there be a review period prior to, or after, implementation for providers to address questions/concerns?**

A9. Providers who believe there is an error in the rate calculation may submit the rate review form to their Regional Center no later than 60 days after receiving their rates.

[Rate review forms can be found here.](#)

**Q11. Where can I learn more about the rate changes effective January 1, 2025?**

A11. In the coming weeks, the Department will be issuing a series of directives to provide detailed information about the updated service descriptions, requirements, and timelines for any transitions for each service category.

**Q12. If a provider started services after January 2023, will they be eligible for a rate increase?**

A12. Yes. If you are providing services under an applicable service code and were vendored under a department set rate or median rate, your rate will be adjusted upon full implementation.

**Q13. Will the rates vary across all regional centers?**

A13. Yes, rates will vary across regional centers because the Rate Models include differences in regional cost assumptions such as wages, travel, and others.

**Q14. If two vendors work in the same area, will they be paid the same standard rate, or will there be differences from vendor to vendor performing the same service?**

A14. The Rate Models were constructed in consideration of costs providers faced in delivering a particular service consistent with the state's requirements. This allows providers to receive the same rate for the same service in the same area consistently across the Regional Centers.

**Q15. How will rates be determined for providers serving consumers from multiple regional centers?**

A15. Providers may have multiple rates for the same service when services are provided in multiple regional center catchment areas. More information can be found in the May 9, 2022 guidance: [Rate Study Implementation – Rates for Providers who Serve Consumers from Multiple Regional Centers.](#)



**Q16. For service providers with rates above the Rate Model, when will rates be decreased?**

A16. Service providers with rates above the Rate Model base rate will be held harmless (no change to rate) until June 30, 2026, after which time the provider's rates will be adjusted to the Rate Model base rate.

