



PETE CERVINKA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Developmental Services**  
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

September 10, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT AND PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED SERVICES FOR SOCIAL RECREATION SERVICES, CAMPING SERVICES AND NONMEDICAL THERAPY

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide clarification to regional centers related to funding for social recreation services; camping services; and nonmedical therapies. [Welfare and Institutions \(W&I\) Code section 4688.22](#) codified the restoration of these services making them available to individuals, not only for socialization, but to lead the lives that they want in the community, and to reduce administrative barriers to the utilization of these services by individuals.

To promote increased availability and access to such services, the Department provided guidance to regional centers on [February 8, 2022](#) regarding implementation of a new sub-code for billing and claiming associated with restored services. On [November 16, 2022](#), regional centers were provided clarification about the timing of payments for restored services to align with typical processes used by non-regional center payors under certain circumstances. Assembly Bill 162 amended W&I Code section 4688.22(c)(2)(B) and states: "...Furthermore, payments for these services shall be aligned with the typical processes used by local businesses or community resources."

The [November 3, 2023](#) correspondence provided guidance on trailer bill changes for social recreation services, camping services and nonmedical therapy, including the use of the [Standardized Vendorization Packet](#) and required documents that must be used by regional centers when vendoring interested applicants. This correspondence also presented guidance on the use of [service code 459 \(Participant-Directed Social Recreation, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies\)](#), that may be used to purchase social recreation services, camping services and nonmedical therapies through a Financial Management Service (FMS), if the provider of these services is, 1) not vendored by the regional center; and, 2) the provider's service is predominantly delivered to individuals who do not receive regional center services. One of the requirements of service code 459 is that utilization is not for the reimbursement of the individual or family.

The Department has been made aware of situations where families are interested in social recreation, camping and nonmedical therapy services from certain providers that are not willing to utilize or work with an FMS. In such cases, families are left with no option but to access services if they pay the provider directly. To address these situations, regional centers may have families reimbursed directly through the FMS, utilizing service code 024, Purchase Reimbursement.

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Parent reimbursement should be based on individualized needs and determined through the IPP process. Regional centers should continue efforts to increase the availability of and access to these services using Participant-Directed Services and vrending interested community-based entities through the use of the Standardized Vendorization Packet.

In the case service code 024, Purchase Reimbursement is utilized for social recreation, camp and nonmedical therapies, regional centers must use the "SRA" sub-code for billing and claiming. Additionally, regional centers should note the preferred method of the two is the use of service code 459, as it is federally reimbursable.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the Office of Community Operations at (916) 654-1690 or [oco@dds.ca.gov](mailto:oco@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

ERNIE CRUZ  
Deputy Director  
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Pete Cervinka, Department of Developmental Services  
Michi Gates, Department of Developmental Services  
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services  
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services