



January 14, 2025

D-2025-Emergencies-001

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RATE ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY FOR WILDFIRES

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4639.6 authorizes the Director of the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to issue directives to regional centers as the Director deems necessary to protect individual rights, health, safety, or welfare.

The Governor declared a State of Emergency, on January 7, 2025, due to the ongoing wildfires affecting Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, and surrounding areas. Significant portions of the region are experiencing evacuations, power outages, and service disruptions. These emergency conditions have imposed significant challenges and potential risks to delivering services to individuals served by regional centers in the area. Service providers may encounter staffing challenges and increased costs, including overtime required to safely support individuals during the State of Emergency.

Consistent with WIC Sections 4681.6, 4689.8 and 4691.9, to protect individuals' health and safety as a result of the current wildfire emergency, Executive Directors of the following regional centers are granted authority to approve rate adjustments for service providers to meet the support needs of individuals during this emergency:

- Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
- Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
- Harbor Regional Center
- North Los Angeles County Regional Center
- San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
- South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
- Tri-Counties Regional Center
- Westside Regional Center

Regional center Executive Directors shall approve time-limited rate adjustments only when the increased costs are directly attributable to health and safety needs arising from the wildfire emergency, such as evacuation support, emergency staffing coverage, or additional service hours necessitated by power outages and other emergency conditions. Regional centers specified in this directive must report to the Department, by March 31, 2025, details on rate adjustments, including vendor number and individual information. The spreadsheet for reporting this information is available on the RC

Portal. Regional centers may contact rcbhealthandsafety@dds.ca.gov to request access to the spreadsheet.

This directive also provides the regional centers specified above with the authority to allow individuals to voluntarily choose remote delivery of the coordinated family supports service during this emergency.

This directive remains in effect for 30 days unless extended by the Director of the Department. If you have any questions regarding this directive, please contact Dr. Michi Gates, at (916) 657-3216.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

PETE CERVINKA
Director

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services
Michi Gates, Department of Developmental Services
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services
Tiffani Andrade, Department of Developmental Services
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services