

October 9, 2025

D-2025-Quality Incentive Program-016

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM – EMPLOYMENT
MEASURE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

In the Fall of 2025, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) will begin collecting data from service providers through three reporting measures as part of the [Quality Incentive Program \(QIP\)](#). One of these measures is the FY 2026-27 Employment measure, which collects information on staff training and the attainment of competitive integrated employment (CIE) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (individuals). Employment service providers with QIP-eligible Purchase of Service (POS) authorizations during FY 2024-25 (existing service providers) can earn half of the [Quality Incentive component of their applicable rate model](#) for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, by participating in this Employment measure.

Employment providers who were vendored or re-activated on or after July 1, 2025, are not eligible to participate in this employment measure. Guidance for them to participate in the QIP will be provided in a separate directive.

QIP Employment Provider Eligibility

Eligibility requirements to participate in the QIP Employment data collection are detailed in the October 2025 [directive](#) D-2025-Quality Incentive Program-015. As described in that directive, existing service providers that meet the following criteria will be eligible to participate in the data collection and earn half of their Quality Incentive rate component beginning on July 1, 2026:

- Service providers that delivered services and have Purchase of Service (POS) authorizations under the following QIP-eligible service codes during FY 2024-25:
 - Supported Employment – Group (Service Code 950)
 - Supported Employment – Individual (Service Code 952)
- Service providers that are validated within the [Provider Directory](#) before **October 30, 2025**.

Quality Measure and Desired Outcomes

The desired outcome of this measure is to gather baseline information across two areas related to the provision of employment services to individuals with I/DD. The first area includes the number and proportion of all service provider staff delivering employment services that have received specialized training. Secondly, it measures the number and proportion of individuals who have attained employment, including details regarding

transition and job retention. This data will be used to support a deeper understanding of employment services in California, and to assist in planning future reporting and QIP measures to strengthen employment services and promote CIE attainment for individuals.

Reporting Area	Measure Details
Staff Training Baseline	<p>The total number and proportion of paid staff during FY 2024-25 that completed training, or became certified or re-certified as trained employment specialists through these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) training • Certification of Employment Service Professionals (CESP) certification/re-certification
Employment Baseline	<p>Number and proportion of individuals who have achieved any of the following during FY 2024-25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attain individual CIE, including but not limited to individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transition from internships to individual CIE ○ Transition from group employment to individual CIE ○ Transition from day or educational programs to individual CIE • Attain group employment, including but not limited to individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transition from internship to group employment ○ Transition from day or educational programs to group employment • Attain a paid internship • Stay in their job for at least 30 days, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, or 24 months. <p>Providers will report on these milestones which were reached during FY 2024-25, while the initial placement may have occurred prior to the start of FY 2024-25.</p>

Incentive Amount for Reporting

Eligible employment service providers can earn half of their Quality Incentive rate component for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, by participating in this measure and providing complete and accurate reporting related to staff training and job placements.

Required Reporting Criteria

Beginning on November 3, 2025, eligible employment service providers (see the “Employment Provider Eligibility” section above) will receive a hyperlink to an online survey at the email address they registered in the Provider Directory. Service providers

must submit complete reporting by January 31, 2026, and meet all other eligibility requirements in directive D-2025-Quality Incentive Program-015, to qualify for half of their Quality Incentive rate component for FY 2026-27.

Data Validation and Rate Processing

Once the data has been reviewed and validated by the Department, regional centers will program the rate earned by the service provider, inclusive of the earned Quality Incentive rate component, for FY 2026-27.

Training and Information

The Department will hold training webinars for regional centers and eligible service providers, which will be announced on the Department's [QIP webpage](#). The training webinars will include information on the FY 2026-27 Employment measure and reporting requirements, instructions on how to report data using the data collection tool, and other relevant information. The Department encourages all eligible service providers to attend the training webinars.

Questions from service providers should be directed to their vendoring regional center. Regional centers may submit questions to QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

AARON CHRISTIAN
Chief, Population Risk, Quality Assurance, and Data Operations

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Service Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies