

Quality Incentive Program Initial QIP Provider Fact Sheet

(This fact sheet applies to service providers who were newly vendored, re-activated or re-vendored in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, and/or were active but did not provide services during FY 2025-26.)

1. WHAT IS THE INITIAL QIP PROVIDER MEASURE?

The [Initial QIP Provider Measure](#), which informs the fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 provider rate, requires newly vendored, re-activated, or re-vendored providers to report their agency profile and workforce characteristics to the Department of Developmental Services (Department) through an online survey. This survey will be sent to service providers that supported or will support individuals during FY 2025-26. Service providers will be asked questions related to:

- ✓ where, how and in what languages services are provided in, and
- ✓ staffing wages, turnover, number of direct care staff on payroll.

Accurate on-time reporting lets eligible providers earn part or all of their [Quality Incentive rate](#).

- Service providers vendored after January 1, 2026, will be emailed the Initial QIP Provider survey one month after their vendorization is approved. Service providers who successfully complete the Initial QIP Provider survey within 60 days will begin earning their Quality Incentive Rate on the first day of the following month. Newly vendored service providers must also meet the requirements outlined in the Quality Incentive Program – Provider Directory directive ([D-2025-Quality Incentive Program-005](#)) to earn their rate for the remainder of FY 2025-26.
- Starting February 6, 2026, service providers re-vendored during FY 2025-26 or reactivated service providers issued a new vendor number after July 1, 2025 will be emailed the Initial QIP Provider survey. Service providers that complete the Initial QIP Provider survey within 60 days and meet all requirements will earn their Quality Incentive Rate for the entirety of FY 2026-27 (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027).

2. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS PROVIDERS MUST MEET TO PARTICIPATE?

To participate in the Initial QIP Provider survey data collection effort, a service provider must meet these requirements:

- ✓ Newly vendored after January 1, 2026, **or** become vendored during FY 2026-27; **or**
- ✓ Reactivated/re-vendored in FY 2025-26 as part of Rate Reform; **or**
- ✓ Were vendored on or after July 1, 2025, **or**
- ✓ Did not provide services or generate any POS claims that qualified for QIP (see Table 1) during FY 2024-25 or FY 2025-26.
- ✓ Fully and accurately registered in the [Provider Directory](#) at vendorization.

- ✓ Be compliant with [Electronic Visit Verification](#) (EVV) by:
 - Registering at the [California Provider Self-Registration Portal](#), or
 - Get confirmation from your vendoring regional center that you are exempt from EVV.
- ✓ Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) – Vendoring RC must:
 - Make an initial determination that you meet the [HCBS settings final rule](#), and
 - Report that determination to DDS (per the [January 8, 2024, directive](#)).
- ✓ Independent Audits or Reviews
 - If total payments from one or more RC in a state FY equal \$2,000,000 or more, then an independent audit or independent review by an accounting firm must be conducted relating to payments made by RC(s).
 - If total payments from one or more RC in a state FY equal between \$500,000 and \$2,000,000, then an independent review by an accounting firm must be conducted relating to payments made by RC(s).
 - All service providers must submit their independent audit or independent review to their vendoring regional center within 9 months after the end of the most recent fiscal year or have an approved exemption under [Welfare and Institutions code 4652.5](#).

3. WHAT ARE THE INCENTIVE AMOUNTS?

For submitting complete and accurate data in the Initial QIP Provider survey on agency and workforce characteristics, providers may earn up to 10% of their Quality Incentive rate.

4. WHO WILL SERVICE PROVIDERS BE ASKED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ABOUT?

- ✓ All paid staff on payroll during first year of operation.

5. WHAT WILL SERVICE PROVIDERS BE ASKED TO REPORT?

- A. Agency Profile: Service providers will submit information regarding the languages in which they provide services, and their ownership structure (i.e., agency/corporation or independent provider) and whether they provide community or site-based services.
- B. Workforce Characteristics: Service providers will submit information on several aspects of operation, including:
 - number of part-time and full-time staff on payroll during first year of operation,
 - total number of direct care staff on payroll during first year of operation, and
 - average starting and average hourly wage for staff during first year of operation.

6. HOW DOES THE REPORTING WORK (STEP-BY-STEP)?

- ✓ For service providers vendored after January 1, 2026, one month **after vendorization**, watch the inbox of the email address submitted on Provider Directory for the survey link.
- ✓ Service Providers vendored or re-vendored after July 1, 2025, the parent organization will be emailed a survey link beginning February 6, 2026, to the email address submitted on Provider Directory.
- ✓ Gather payroll/training records for staff and services provided.

- ✓ Complete the survey prep worksheet before accessing the survey link to minimize data entry errors or the need for multiple submissions.
- ✓ Complete the online survey by **applicable deadline**. Late or incomplete submissions do not earn incentives.
- ✓ Validation and rate programming – DDS will review and validate all data. Regional centers (RC) will then program FY 2026-27 rate to include any QIP portion earned.

7. WHEN WILL INCENTIVES BE APPLIED OR DISBURSED?

Participation in the [Initial QIP Provider Survey](#) may earn service providers with QIP-eligible purchase of service (POS) authorizations during FY 2025-26; up to 10% of the Quality Incentive rate for the entire fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

TABLE 1. QIP Eligible Service Codes Informing FY 2026-27 Quality Incentive Rate

Service Code	Type of Service	Provider Capacity	Prevention and Wellness	Employment	Initial QIP Provider Survey
025	Tutor Services – Group	X			X
048	Client/Parent Support Behavior Intervention Training	X			X
055	Community Integration Training Program	X			X
062	Personal Assistance	X			X
063	Community Activities Support Services	X			X
073	Parent Coordinated Supported Living	X			X
091	In-home/Mobile Day Program	X			X
093	Parent Coordinated Personal Assistance	X			X
096	Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)	X*	X*		X*
103	Specialized Health, Treatment & Training Services	X			X
108	Parenting Support Services	X			X
109	Supplemental Residential Program Support	X			X
110	Supplemental Day Program Support	X			X
111	Supplemental Program Support – Other Services	X			X

* Indicates service types may be vendored under different service codes

† Table continues

Service Code	Type of Service	Provider Capacity	Prevention and Wellness	Employment	Initial QIP Provider Survey
113	ARFPSHN	X	X		X
115	Specialized Therapeutic Services	X			X
116	Early Specialized Therapeutic Services	X			X
117	Specialized Therapeutic Services	X			X
163	GHCSHN	X			X
456	Participant-Directed Personal Assistance	X			X
457	Participant-Directed Independent Living	X			X
458	Participant-Directed Supported Employment	X			X
465	Participant-Directed Respite	X			X
475	Participant-Directed Community-Based Training	X			X
505	Activity Center	X			X
510	Adult Development Center	X			X
515	Behavior Management Program	X			X
520	Independent Living Program	X			X
531	Day Services	X			X
532	Behavioral Day Services	X			X
533	Medical Day Services	X			X
605	Adaptive Skills Training	X			X
612	Behavior Analyst	X			X*
613	Associate Behavior Analyst	X			X
615	Behavior Management Assistant	X			X
616	Behavioral Technician – Paraprofessional	X			X
620	Behavior Management Consultant	X			X

* Indicates service types may be vended under different service codes

† Table continues

Service Code	Type of Service	Provider Capacity	Prevention and Wellness	Employment	Initial QIP Provider Survey
635	Independent Living Specialist	X			X
645	Mobility Training Services Agency	X			X
650	Mobility Training Services Specialist	X			X
680	Tutor Services	X			X
805	Infant Development Program	X			X
858	Homemaker	X			X
860	Housekeeping	X			X
862	Respite	X			X
864	In-home Respite Worker	X			X
875	Transportation Company	X			X
880	Transportation – Additional Component	X			X
882	Transportation – Assistant	X			X
883	Transportation Broker	X			X
894	Supported Living Services – Administrative	X			X
896	Supported Living Services	X			X
900 & 901	Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH) – Facility and Individual Services	X*	X*		X*
904	Family Home Agency (FHA)	X*	X*		X*
905	Residential Facility Serving Adults – Owner Operated	X*	X*		X*
910	Residential Facility Serving Children – Owner Operated	X*	X*		X*
915	Residential Facility Serving Adults – Staff Operated	X*	X*		X*
920	Residential Facility Serving Children – Staff Operated	X*	X*		X*
950	Supported Employment – Group	X		X	X
952	Supported Employment – Individual	X		X	X
954	Work Activity Program	X			X

AT A GLANCE RESOURCES

FISCAL YEAR DATES

1. FY 2024-25 → (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
2. FY 2025-26 → (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)
3. FY 2026-27 → (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

KEY MILESTONES

- January 1, 2026: One month after vendorization, **newly vendored** service providers receive emailed survey link and have 60 days to complete. (*QIP rate effective the first of the month following completion of the Initial QIP Provider Survey*)
- February 6, 2026: **Active or re-vendored** service providers begin receiving emailed survey link and must complete within 60 days of receipt.
- February 27, 2026: Service providers must meet all compliance requirements (EVV, HCBS, independent audit/review).
- March 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027: The rate will start on the first day of the month, which begins at least 30 days after you successfully and accurately complete the Initial QIP Provider Survey. For example, if you finish on April 15, 2026; the rate will be applied on June 1, 2026.

Note: Nine months after most recent fiscal year (FY), applicable service providers must submit either their Independent Audit or Independent Review to their vendoring RC.

CHECKLIST

- Had POS authorizations for a QIP eligible code in FY 2025-26.
- Registered in the Provider Directory upon vendorization.
- Received the DDS survey email with Initial QIP Provider Survey link.
- Submitted complete and accurate data by **applicable deadline**.
- Meet all compliance requirements annually.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Webinar announcements will be posted on the DDS QIP webpage. Attendance is strongly encouraged. DDS will host training webinars for RCs and eligible providers. Topics include:

- How the Initial QIP Provider Measure works.
- Eligibility & compliance requirements.
- Reporting instructions and use of the data collection tool.

ONLINE RESOURCES

For more information on the QIP, please see:

- The QIP webpage: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>
- The QIP FAQ

For more information on the Initial QIP Provider survey and measure, please see:

- The FY 2026-27 [Initial QIP Provider Measure Directive](#)
- The FY 2026-27 Initial QIP Provider Measure FAQ

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

- **DDS** - Department of Developmental Services.
- **RC** – Regional Center.
- **QIP (Quality Incentive Program)** – A program that rewards providers for actions that improve quality.
- **POS (Purchase of Service) Authorization** - Approval from a regional center for services provider delivers.
- **Vendored/Re-vendored** – Approved or re-approved by a regional center to provide services.
- **Provider Directory** – DDS system where service providers register contact information.
- **Quality Incentive Rate** – An ongoing “rate add on”. When a provider meets a QIP measure, a portion of their reimbursement rate (up to 10% of the full rate) is turned on for the period DDS specifies.
- **FY** – Fiscal Year.
- **EEV** - Electronic Visit Verification.
- **HCBS** - Home and Community-Based Services.