



PETE CERVINKA  
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & 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

March 11, 2026

D-2026-Rate Reform-002

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: UPDATES TO REQUIREMENTS FOR BEHAVIOR DAY PROGRAMS

As part of continued rate reform implementation, this letter provides clarification of the clinical requirements for Behavior Day Programs (service code 532) in directive [D-2024-Rate Reform-008 REV](#), issued December 19, 2025.

A Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Behavior Management Consultant as defined by Title 17 of the CCR section 54342(a) is required to provide at least 2 hours per person per month or averaged semi-annually across all individuals served, and can be prorated based on the part-time attendance of an individual attending the program. This staffing requirement is effective after February 28, 2026. To allow for agencies actively hiring but experiencing difficulty securing professionals, this specific requirement is not subject to audit by the Department or regional centers for services provided before March 1, 2027.

Services provided by the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst or Behavior Management Consultant align with requirements outlined in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, section 54342, and may be direct (in the presence of the individual) or indirect (in support of the individual). Their clinical responsibilities include but are not limited to assessment, data collection and analysis, behavior plan development and review, staff training, and IPP participation. Remote service provision is permitted for up to 50 percent of the required hours with documentation supporting the remote hours.

Eligibility for a Behavior Day Services program (532) continues to be determined by the IPP team. If the IPP team determines that the individual's needs may be met at a lower level of behavioral support, they may be authorized for the Community-based Day Services program (531). Providers supporting individuals who do not require the level of behavior management support required in a Behavior Day Services program (532) may have a second vendorization for Day Program (531) to continue supporting individuals in a less restrictive manner. An individual may move between programs if the level of support changes and the IPP team makes this determination. At that time, a new authorization would be submitted for the appropriate option.

This letter should be shared with involved regional center personnel and the provider network. If providers, individuals and/or their families have questions regarding this letter, they should contact their regional center. Questions from regional centers should be directed to [ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

DANA SIMON  
Deputy Director, Waiver and Rates Division

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