

April 1, 2026

D-2026-Rate Reform-003

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: RESPITE SERVICES THAT UTILIZE BEHAVIORAL PROGRAMMING  
AND STAFFING – UPDATED BILLING INSTRUCTIONS

This letter clarifies the subcodes and billing instructions for agency service providers that provide respite services that utilize behavioral programming and staff. Beginning May 1, 2026, agency service providers that provide respite with behavioral programming must transition to the following billing instructions.

**Respite Services that Utilize Behavioral Programming (service code 862)**

Respite services which utilize behavioral programming and staff are in-home respite services for individuals who require specialized support for behavioral needs as described in their IPP. Respite services which utilize behavioral programming and staff shall adhere to the definition of in-home respite per Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 2, Subchapter 3. These services additionally may include clinical assessments and progress monitoring by qualified professionals. These services must include supervision of the direct support professional, planning, teaming and coordination with other service providers (when applicable), and initial and ongoing staff training specific to supporting the service providers description of the populations served in accordance with Title 17, Section 56784, including the implementation of evidence-based strategies and techniques, when applicable. All direct services are provided at a 1:1 ratio, or higher with regional center approval.

A biannual (twice per year) review with a progress report should be conducted by the IPP team to determine whether the individual continues to need respite services with behavioral programming. Reviews may occur more frequently if needed. This review shall be documented in the Individual Program Plan (IPP).

Billing

Direct support professionals providing respite with behavioral programming and who are supervised by staff with additional qualifications must use Service Code 862 with a unique subcode that indicates the staffing ratio. For direct support staff and supervising staff with additional qualifications, the associated professional code (e.g., 616 – Behavior Technician Paraprofessional or 612 – Behavior Analyst) must be used as the subcode. All services are billed per hour, including for individuals who require a ratio higher than 1:1 during a single hour (e.g., two staff may be billed for the same hour). In

these cases, a regional center may choose a distinguishing subcode in the last two of the five subcode characters. Supervising staff may bill the same service hour as the direct support staff to provide case supervision. Attachment A shows the service code and subcodes for each staff type.

### Rates

Rates are posted [here](#) for all associated staff, including a premium rate for direct support professional. The premium rate is only available to direct support professionals who are supervised and trained by professionals with additional qualifications, and in cases when the provider is using an associated professional sub code.

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

Attachment

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