

April 1, 2026

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

RESPITE SERVICES USING BEHAVIORAL PROGRAMMING & STAFFING – UPDATED BILLING INSTRUCTIONS

D-2026-Rate Reform-003

What to Know

This directive explains new billing rules for respite service providers who use behavioral programming. These updates are being made because of rate reform.

Starting May 1, 2026:

- Respite services that include behavioral programming or staffing must be billed using 862 as the primary service code.
- Providers need to include the correct subcode based on each staff member's qualifications.
- Billing must be done by the hour.
- Supervising staff may also bill for the same service hour, when it applies.
- The person's need for this service must be reviewed every six months. It needs to be recorded in their IPP.

What's Changing

This directive does not change how individuals or families receive their services. This directive only changes how providers bill regional centers for respite services that include behavioral programming or staffing.

Questions?

Individuals and families with questions about this directive should contact their service coordinator. Service providers with questions should contact their vendoring regional center. Regional centers should email questions to ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov.

Learn More

If you want to learn more about rate reform, please visit the Department's [Rate Reform webpage](http://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform). (www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform)

