QIP RATE REQUIREMENTS

The Quality Incentive Program (QIP) is being designed to improve individual outcomes, service provider performance, and the quality of services. The Department of Developmental Services (Department) established requirements service providers must meet to receive the full QIP rate in FY 2025-2026 and FY 2026-2027. Service providers who do not meet deadlines may receive reduced rates temporarily but may regain full eligibility once requirements are completed and verified.

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 QIP Rates

Q1. What must providers do to earn their quality incentive rate for FY 2025-2026?

A1. Providers must do the following to earn their quality incentive rate for FY 2025-2026.

Step/Requirement	Deadline	Directive
✓ Register and validate service agency information in Provider Directory (PD)	✓ **New Providers*:** Within 45 days of vendorization or upon vendorization (standardized vendorization). ✓ **Existing Providers**:** By May 30, 2025.	D-2025 Rate Reform-001- QIP & Provider Directory Updates D-2025 Rate Reform-005-New Service Provider Rates D-2025 QIP-004- Provider Directory

***** New providers are those who were vendored on or after July 1, 2025.
****** Existing providers are those who were vendored prior to July 1, 2025.

Q2. What rate percentage will providers start at if vendored on or after July 1, 2025?

A2. New vendorizations after July 1, 2025, will start at 90% until validated in the Provider Directory. The month following validation in the Provider Directory they can begin earning 100% of their rate. The exception to this is those being vendored through the standardized vendorization process, in which case they can begin at 100% since validation in the Provider Directory is simultaneous with vendorization.

Q3. When does the provider's QIP rate take effect?

A3. For providers vendored in FY 2025-2026 (on/after July 1, 2025), but did not go through standard vendorization, their rate is effective the month following validation in the PD (D-2025 Rate Reform-005-New Service Provider Rates).

- Existing providers who were re-vendored as part of rate reform may carry their QIP rate over to the new vendor number if they had already qualified for the FY 2025-2026 QIP rate under their old vendor number (these providers do not need to shift to 90% unless they did/do not validate their new vendor number within 45 days).

For providers who were vendored through standard vendorization in FY 2025-2026 (on/after July 1, 2025), their rate is effective upon vendorization if they also registered and validated in the PD during the vendorization process (D-2025 RC Operations Standardized Vendorizations).

Existing providers must have validated their info in the PD by May 30, 2025 (D-2025 QIP-004-Provider Directory).

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 QIP Rates

Q4. What must providers do to earn their quality incentive rate for FY 2026-2027?

A4. Providers must do the following to earn their quality incentive rate for FY 2026-2027.

Step/Requirement	Deadline	Directive
✓ **Active vendorization with regional center**	Any time prior to or during FY 2026-2027	D-2025 QIP-015-FY 2026-2027 Rate Eligibility
✓ **Be compliant with regulations** o Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) o Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) o Independent Audits/Financial Reviews	✓ **New Providers*:** Upon vendorization ✓ **Existing Providers**:** ➢ To earn full FY 2026-2027 rate: Be compliant prior to QIP survey deadline (2/27/2026) ➢ To earn partial rate, be compliant after 2/27/2026 through 6/30/2027.	D-2026 QIP-003 - Eligibility Update
✓ **Register and validate in Provider Directory (PD)**	✓ **New Providers*:** Upon vendorization or within 45 days of vendorization. ✓ **Existing Providers**:** Before October 30, 2025.	D-2025 QIP-004-Provider Directory D-2025 QIP-015-FY 2026-2027 Rate Eligibility
✓ **Complete applicable QIP survey(s)**	✓ **New Providers*:** April 24, 2026, or 60 days after receipt of Initial Provider Survey. ✓ **Existing Providers**:** By February 27, 2026	D-2026 QIP-001-New Service Providers D-2025 QIP–018–FY 2026-2027 Provider Capacity

* New providers are those who were vendored on or after July 1, 2025.
** Existing providers are those who were vendored prior to July 1, 2025.

Q5. What if a provider comes into compliance with EVV or the Independent Audit Review requirement after February 27, 2026?

A5. Providers who submit evidence of compliance after the deadline must have completed their required FY 2026-2027 QIP surveys to begin earning 100% of their rate no earlier than September 1, 2026, or 60 days after verification of compliance. Late compliance service providers can only earn 100% of their rate if all applicable QIP surveys have also been completed. (D-2026 QIP-003 Eligibility Update).

Questions?

Email: QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov

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