

September 21, 2026

D-2026-Employment-003

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION ORDER OF SELECTION

Purpose

The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has implemented an order of selection for new vocational rehabilitation applicants as of August 31, 2026. The obligations for the provision of employment services have shifted to regional centers per [California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4855](#), which states:

“When an individual who is eligible for habilitation services under this chapter is referred to the Department of Rehabilitation for vocational rehabilitation services, including supported employment services, and is placed on a Department of Rehabilitation waiting list for vocational rehabilitation as a result of the Department of Rehabilitation’s order of selection regulations, the regional center shall authorize appropriate services for the individual pursuant to this chapter as needed until services can be provided by the vocational rehabilitation program.”

[California Code of Regulations Title 17, section 58842](#) requires regional centers, “as directed by the Department”, to provide services on behalf of individuals denied services under order of selection.

This directive outlines: (1) regional centers’ responsibilities during order of selection, including authorizing regional center employment services immediately upon DOR referral, and (2) the fees regional centers must authorize and pay providers while order of selection is in effect.

What Is Changing

Regional centers must continue referring individuals to DOR. DOR will determine eligibility and assign each applicant to one of three priority categories. As of the date of this letter, all three priority categories are closed, meaning all applicants are placed on a waiting list before DOR vocational rehabilitation services can begin. DOR may update the status of these categories over time, and individuals may be served by DOR as resources become available. During this waiting period, regional centers are responsible for funding employment services for individuals they serve until the person’s Individualized Plan for Employment is signed with DOR.

Who Is Affected

This directive applies to individuals who have been referred to DOR and are awaiting approval for new vocational rehabilitation services. It also applies to anyone who will be referred to DOR while the order of selection is in effect.

Who Is Not Affected

This directive does not apply to individuals who have a signed Individualized Plan for Employment with DOR. The order of selection does not apply to those receiving or eligible for DOR student services or to individuals interested in employment-related services not funded by DOR, such as the Paid Internship Program, Tailored Day Services, or Supported Employment – Group.

Regional Center Responsibilities

Effective the date of this directive and until DOR lifts the order of selection, regional centers shall authorize employment services as stated in [California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4855](#) and [California Code of Regulations Title 17, section 58842](#). Regional centers may authorize employment services immediately using documentation that shows a DOR referral was submitted. No additional waiting period or verification is required to authorize supported employment during order of selection.

Regional center services shall include, but not be limited to:

- Supported Employment – Individual Placement (Service Code 952)
 - Job Development (Subcode 1D0)
 - Job Coaching (Subcode 1J0)

Vendor Fee Schedule (Paid by Regional Centers)

Regional centers are required under [California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4860\(c\)](#) to pay three new provider fees for employment services provided to individuals who have been placed on a DOR waiting list due to order of selection. These new fees will be included in the provider's rate table. These new fees do not prevent providers from claiming other existing Supported Employment – Individual Placement regional center service subcodes, nor from receiving Competitive Integrated Employment incentive payments. For individuals in the Self-Determination Program, these fees shall be paid outside of the individual budget.

Regional centers must verify fee eligibility before issuing payments. Verification of fee eligibility requires documentation from DOR showing that the individual has been assigned a category impacted by order of selection and placed on a waiting list. Providers also must submit documentation to the regional center confirming that each milestone has been met before claiming fees.

1. Intake Fee: \$360
 - Paid to the supported employment provider upon intake
 - Not payable if the individual completed a supported employment intake with the same supported employment provider within the previous 12 months
 - Billed using Service Code 952, Subcode VR1

2. Placement Fee: \$720
 - Paid upon placement of the individual into competitive integrated employment
 - No fee shall be paid if the individual is placed with another individual or individuals assigned to the same job coach during the same hours of employment
 - Billed using Service Code 952, Subcode VR2
3. 90-Day Retention Fee: \$720
 - Paid after the individual maintains competitive integrated employment placement for 90 days
 - No fee shall be paid if the individual is placed with another individual or individuals assigned to the same job coach during the same hours of employment
 - Billed using Service Code 952, Subcode VR3

For more information, visit the Department of Rehabilitation's website on [order of selection](#).

For questions about order of selection, email OOSQuestions@dor.ca.gov.

For questions about regional center responsibilities, email WorkServices@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

SONYA FOX, Branch Chief
Employment Services
Department of Developmental Services

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