

EARLY START PROGRAM: RATES FOR SERVICES DELIVERED REMOTELY

D-2026-Rates-004

What to Know

This directive explains how regional centers should pay for Infant Development Programs (service code 805) and Specialized Therapeutic Services (service code 116) when they are delivered remotely. “Remotely” means by phone or video. Early Start services, including remote services, always must match what is written in the child’s individualized family service plan (IFSP).

What’s Changing

This directive does not change how people get services. The directive updates how providers get paid for delivering these services when they are provided remotely. While the Department evaluates if remote services should be charged at a separate rate, the following reimbursement rules start on November 1, 2026:

- **Occasional Remote Services (as needed):**
 - Pay using the provider’s current rate (home/community or clinic), only when the family chooses remote services due to unexpected events (an illness, for example).
 - Occasional remote services should be less than 25 percent of the scheduled visits in the quarter.
- **Regular Remote Services (either hybrid or fully remote):**
 - Pay using the clinic-based rate and subcode when remote services happen regularly.
 - This applies even if the provider does not normally have a clinic rate.
 - Providers do not need to update their program design to provide these services remotely.

Questions?

For questions on authorization or reimbursement, email ratesquestions@dds.ca.gov.
For questions on Early Start program requirements, email earlystart@dds.ca.gov.

Learn More

Please see the May 1, 2026 letter: [Tracking Provisions of Remote Services](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/G-2026-RegionalCenterOperations-001.pdf) (<https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/G-2026-RegionalCenterOperations-001.pdf>).