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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

November 16, 2026 D-2026-Rates-006

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: PROVIDER DIRECTORY – VENDOR RECORD UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS AND QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

This letter provides instructions regarding service codes previously exempted during the initial Provider Directory (PD) implementation and establishes requirements for the submission of existing vendor records into the PD. This is important for identifying the applicability of the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) to certain providers and enabling their participation in it.

Background
The PD is California's centralized record for all service provider information. As the PD continues to expand its capabilities, services that were not previously included in the PD are being added.

The QIP applies to service codes included in rate reform, and establishes a base rate of 90 percent of applicable rate models, with an additional 10 percent QIP rate component voluntarily earned by eligible providers who comply with QIP requirements.

Existing Vendors
Vendor information for all service codes, other than service codes exempt from standard vendorization as outlined in D-2025-Regional Center Operations-004REV, now must be uploaded to PD. This includes participant-directed and parent-coordinated service providers. (Note: individuals, family and parent providers using these service codes will not have public-facing information in the PD in order to protect their privacy.) Regional centers must identify providers vendored prior to March 1, 2026, implementation of standard vendorization who are not in the PD and submit the required information for each of those vendors through the RC Portal (Community Services Site Page) utilizing Attachment A in their designated folder within the RC portal.

Regional centers should prioritize the submission of vendor information for service codes in rate reform and to which the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) applies. These service codes are listed in Attachment B.

The Department will upload records submitted by regional centers into the PD on the last Friday of the month, until the end of calendar year 2026. After records are loaded into the PD, providers associated with these records will receive an email invitation to validate their information within the PD. The Department will coordinate with regional centers beginning January 2027 with an outreach program to assist with PD validation for vendors who are individuals and family members.

Individuals and Family Member Providers
Individuals and family members who are vendored to coordinate their own services under Parent-Coordinated Services or Participant-Directed Services must be listed in the PD. *These vendorizations are exempt from QIP requirements, but they also must be vendored in non-QIP service codes appropriate to their service. Attachment C provides additional information about this.*

By December 31, 2026, regional centers must submit to the Department a list of individuals or family members currently vendored to coordinate their own services under service codes subject to QIP, rather than under designated Parent-Coordinated Services or Participant-Directed Services codes. Regional centers must transition these vendorizations to Employer of Record or Participant Directed Services and submit their information to the RC portal utilizing Attachment A. For example, a vendorization under Personal Assistant–Agency (service code 062) must transition to an employer-of-record arrangement or Participant-Directed Personal Assistance (service code 456). The Department will exempt these identified vendorizations from QIP requirements.

Quality Incentive Program Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2027, all vendorizations under service codes listed in Attachment B that are not specifically designated as Employer of Record, Participant-Directed Services, or Parent-Coordinated Services must meet QIP participation and eligibility requirements. Data collection for these services will begin on November 30, 2026, and end on February 26, 2027, Pacific Standard Time, and will inform rates for FY 2028–29, which begins July 1, 2028.

For reference, to be eligible to qualify for the FY 2027-28 QIP quality incentive rate component, service providers must:

- Be vendored with a regional center.
- Validate their information in the PD.
- Meet applicable eligibility requirements for HCBS Final Rule compliance, Electronic Visit Verification, and Independent Audits or Reviews.

For additional information on the QIP, please visit the Department's webpage. Regional center questions about this directive should be addressed to providerdirectory@dds.ca.gov or qipquestions@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

DANA SIMON
Deputy Director
Waiver and Rates Division

Attachments

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