

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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March 1, 2019

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY IN AMADOR, GLENN, LAKE, MENDOCINO,
AND SONOMA COUNTIES

On February 21, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist within 21 counties due to atmospheric river storm systems, which caused widespread damage and flooding. Beginning February 25, 2019, another significant atmospheric river storm system swept across California, bringing additional substantial precipitation, snowfall, high winds, mud and debris flows, and dangerous flooding.

As a result of these storms, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency on February 28, 2019, for Amador, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties.

These repeated atmospheric river storm systems continue to cause widespread impacts throughout California. Multiple rivers are at or expected to exceed flood stages, including the Russian River in Sonoma County. Additionally, these winter storms are threatening homes and have forced the evacuation of thousands of residents.

The circumstances of these storms, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

As a result of the State of Emergency declared for Amador, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17, California Code of Regulations section 54326 (a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of these storms in Amador, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties. The applicable regulation section reads as follows:

"All vendors shall...] Not bill for consumer absences for nonresidential services. The Department shall authorize payment for absences which are the direct result of situations and/or occurrences for which a State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor. If payment for absences due to a State of Emergency is authorized by the Department, the vendor shall bill only for absences in excess of the average number of absences experienced by the vendor during the 12-month period prior to the month in which the disaster occurred."

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

Regional Center Executive Directors
March 1, 2019
Page two

If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact Rapone Anderson, Regional Center Branch Chief, at (916) 654-3722, or by email, at rapone.anderson@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Maria Pena for Rapone Anderson:

RAPONE ANDERSON
Regional Center Branch Manager
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Chief Counselors
Regional Center Administrators
Association of Regional Center Agencies