

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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December 22, 2022

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY – HUMBOLDT COUNTY

On December 20, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency for Humboldt County, as a result of a magnitude 6.4 earthquake that occurred off the Northern California coastline near the City of Ferndale on December 20, 2022.

The earthquake and multiple aftershocks continue to impact the region, including a magnitude 4.6 aftershock near the City of Rio Del. The earthquake damaged roads, bridges, and buildings, including schools, and resulted in structure fires. Hundreds of individuals have been displaced, and there have been multiple injuries and two fatalities.

The earthquake has forced road closures, including closure of the Ferndale Bridge on Highway 211, and has caused widespread power outages and communication cell tower outages, impacting thousands of customers. Additionally, the earthquake has damaged critical lifeline infrastructure, including water lines and gas lines, impacting communities throughout the county.

As a result of the State of Emergency declared for Humboldt County, 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 this emergency. 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
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If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (916) 838-8960, or by email, at ernie.cruz@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Cruz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

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