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DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Developmental Services

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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 12, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY – 11 ADDITIONAL COUNTIES

On March 22, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom expanded the State of Emergency declared in February 2024 to 11 additional counties that may have impacted vendor services in your regional center catchment area. For additional details of the declared State of Emergency, please visit: [Governor Newsom Expands Storm State of Emergency, Requests Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Early February Storms | California Governor](#).

As a result of the State of Emergency, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 54326(a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of the State of Emergency. CCR, section 54326(a)(11) states:

“[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.”

If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact Ernie Cruz, Deputy Director, Community Services Division, at (916) 838-8960, or by email at ernie.cruz@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: See next page

Regional Center Executive Directors
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cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Client Services
Amy Westling, Association of Regional Center Agencies
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services
Pete Cervinka, Department of Developmental Services
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services
Tiffani Andrade, Department of Developmental Service