



## TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER

*Enhancing the Quality of Life for Persons with Developmental Disabilities*

520 EAST MONTECITO STREET, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93103

(805) 962-7881 (800) 322-6994

WWW.TRI-COUNTIES.ORG

To: All Service Providers  
From: Phil Stucky, TCRC CFO  
Re: Emergency rate adjustment authority for wildfires  
Date: January 24, 2025

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) issued the attached directive related to Emergency rate adjustment authority for wildfires on January 14, 2025. This directive is related to the State of Emergency declared on January 7, 2025 by the Governor.

Since our catchment area only had power safety shut offs for Ventura County during this time, there will not be any emergency rate adjustments submitted by TCRC.

TCRC would normally not allow billing for absences related to power safety shut offs but since there is a declared State of Emergency from the governor, the billing for absences is authorized that is related to this directive. This follows State of Emergency directives from DDS which state:

As a result of the State of Emergency, the Department of Developmental Services 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 Title 17 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.*



PETE CERVINKA  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Developmental Services**  
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

January 14, 2025

D-2025-Emergencies-001

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RATE ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY FOR WILDFIRES

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4639.6 authorizes the Director of the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to issue directives to regional centers as the Director deems necessary to protect individual rights, health, safety, or welfare.

The Governor declared a State of Emergency, on January 7, 2025, due to the ongoing wildfires affecting Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, and surrounding areas. Significant portions of the region are experiencing evacuations, power outages, and service disruptions. These emergency conditions have imposed significant challenges and potential risks to delivering services to individuals served by regional centers in the area. Service providers may encounter staffing challenges and increased costs, including overtime required to safely support individuals during the State of Emergency.

Consistent with WIC Sections 4681.6, 4689.8 and 4691.9, to protect individuals' health and safety as a result of the current wildfire emergency, Executive Directors of the following regional centers are granted authority to approve rate adjustments for service providers to meet the support needs of individuals during this emergency:

- Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
- Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
- Harbor Regional Center
- North Los Angeles County Regional Center
- San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
- South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
- Tri-Counties Regional Center
- Westside Regional Center

Regional center Executive Directors shall approve time-limited rate adjustments only when the increased costs are directly attributable to health and safety needs arising from the wildfire emergency, such as evacuation support, emergency staffing coverage, or additional service hours necessitated by power outages and other emergency conditions. Regional centers specified in this directive must report to the Department, by March 31, 2025, details on rate adjustments, including vendor number and individual information. The spreadsheet for reporting this information is available on the RC

Portal. Regional centers may contact [rcbhealthandsafety@dds.ca.gov](mailto:rcbhealthandsafety@dds.ca.gov) to request access to the spreadsheet.

This directive also provides the regional centers specified above with the authority to allow individuals to voluntarily choose remote delivery of the coordinated family supports service during this emergency.

This directive remains in effect for 30 days unless extended by the Director of the Department. If you have any questions regarding this directive, please contact Dr. Michi Gates, at (916) 657-3216.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

PETE CERVINKA  
Director

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services  
Michi Gates, Department of Developmental Services  
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services  
Tiffani Andrade, Department of Developmental Services  
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services