PETE CERVINKA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.dds.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

September 21, 2026 D-2026-Employment-003

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION ORDER OF SELECTION

Purpose

The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has implemented an order of selection for new vocational rehabilitation applicants as of August 31, 2026. The obligations for the provision of employment services have shifted to regional centers per California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4855, which states:

> *"When an individual who is eligible for habilitation services under this chapter is referred to the Department of Rehabilitation for vocational rehabilitation services, including supported employment services, and is placed on a Department of Rehabilitation waiting list for vocational rehabilitation as a result of the Department of Rehabilitation's order of selection regulations, the regional center shall authorize appropriate services for the individual pursuant to this chapter as needed until services can be provided by the vocational rehabilitation program."*

California Code of Regulations Title 17, section 58842 requires regional centers, "as directed by the Department", to provide services on behalf of individuals denied services under order of selection.

This directive outlines: (1) regional centers' responsibilities during order of selection, including authorizing regional center employment services immediately upon DOR referral, and (2) the fees regional centers must authorize and pay providers while order of selection is in effect.

What Is Changing

Regional centers must continue referring individuals to DOR. DOR will determine eligibility and assign each applicant to one of three priority categories. As of the date of this letter, all three priority categories are closed, meaning all applicants are placed on a waiting list before DOR vocational rehabilitation services can begin. DOR may update the status of these categories over time, and individuals may be served by DOR as resources become available. During this waiting period, regional centers are responsible for funding employment services for individuals they serve until the person's Individualized Plan for Employment is signed with DOR.

Who Is Affected
This directive applies to individuals who have been referred to DOR and are awaiting approval for new vocational rehabilitation services. It also applies to anyone who will be referred to DOR while the order of selection is in effect.

Who Is Not Affected
This directive does not apply to individuals who have a signed Individualized Plan for Employment with DOR. The order of selection does not apply to those receiving or eligible for DOR student services or to individuals interested in employment-related services not funded by DOR, such as the Paid Internship Program, Tailored Day Services, or Supported Employment – Group.

Regional Center Responsibilities
Effective the date of this directive and until DOR lifts the order of selection, regional centers shall authorize employment services as stated in California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4855 and California Code of Regulations Title 17, section 58842. Regional centers may authorize employment services immediately using documentation that shows a DOR referral was submitted. No additional waiting period or verification is required to authorize supported employment during order of selection.

Regional center services shall include, but not be limited to:

- Supported Employment – Individual Placement (Service Code 952)
  - Job Development (Subcode 1D0)
  - Job Coaching (Subcode 1J0)

Vendor Fee Schedule (Paid by Regional Centers)
Regional centers are required under California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4860(c) to pay three new provider fees for employment services provided to individuals who have been placed on a DOR waiting list due to order of selection. These new fees will be included in the provider's rate table. These new fees do not prevent providers from claiming other existing Supported Employment – Individual Placement regional center service subcodes, nor from receiving Competitive Integrated Employment incentive payments. For individuals in the Self-Determination Program, these fees shall be paid outside of the individual budget.

Regional centers must verify fee eligibility before issuing payments. Verification of fee eligibility requires documentation from DOR showing that the individual has been assigned a category impacted by order of selection and placed on a waiting list. Providers also must submit documentation to the regional center confirming that each milestone has been met before claiming fees.

1. Intake Fee: $360
   - Paid to the supported employment provider upon intake
   - Not payable if the individual completed a supported employment intake with the same supported employment provider within the previous 12 months
   - Billed using Service Code 952, Subcode VR1

2. Placement Fee: $720
   - Paid upon placement of the individual into competitive integrated employment
   - No fee shall be paid if the individual is placed with another individual or individuals assigned to the same job coach during the same hours of employment
   - Billed using Service Code 952, Subcode VR2

3. 90-Day Retention Fee: $720
   - Paid after the individual maintains competitive integrated employment placement for 90 days
   - No fee shall be paid if the individual is placed with another individual or individuals assigned to the same job coach during the same hours of employment
   - Billed using Service Code 952, Subcode VR3

For more information, visit the Department of Rehabilitation's website on order of selection.

For questions about order of selection, email OOSQuestions@dor.ca.gov.

For questions about regional center responsibilities, email WorkServices@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

SONYA FOX, Branch Chief
Employment Services
Department of Developmental Services

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

September 21, 2026

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION ORDER OF SELECTION

D-2026-Employment-003

What to Know

Starting August 31, 2026, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) entered an Order of Selection (OOS). This means DOR must place some individuals on a waiting list for services. This directive explains what regional centers must do during the OOS.

What's Changing

Nothing changes for individuals who already have a signed Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) with DOR. Also, DOR's student services are not affected.

During OOS, regional centers must fund job development and job coaching services for individuals referred to DOR. Individuals do not have to wait to start receiving employment services from the regional center.

There are three new fees for supported employment vendors working with individuals on the DOR waitlist. These fees are in addition to service rates and incentive payments. Vendors must submit documentation to their regional center that milestones were met to claim these fees.

Questions?

Questions about OOS should be emailed to OOSQuestions@dor.ca.gov.

Regional centers can email questions to WorkServices@dds.ca.gov.

Learn More

Review the DOR order of selection website at Order of Selection (https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/OrderofSelection).

Quality Incentive Program (QIP)

What is the Quality Incentive Program (QIP)?

The QIP is designed to improve individual outcomes, service provider performance, and the quality of services. Service providers who participate in QIP are eligible for incentive payments when their performance meets or exceeds quality measures developed by DDS with input from stakeholders.

How do service providers qualify?

For service codes included in rate reform, providers who are in compliance with Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and independent audit requirements can earn a QIP rate component, up to 10 percent of their applicable rate model, for 7/1/27 – 6/30/28 (FY27-28) by participating in surveys:

- Provider Capacity – all service codes within rate reform
- Preventative Health and Wellness: service codes 113, 896, 904, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935
- Employment: service codes 950 and 952
- Initial Provider Survey: new vendors vendored on or after 7/1/2026 or any vendor that did not participate in QIP previously

To learn more, attend upcoming DDS trainings before the survey deadline 2/27/2027!

QIP TRAINING SESSIONS:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">QIP Training – <u>All Providers Capacity Survey</u>
(Session 2)

Date & Time: 01/11/2027 at 1:00 PM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-S1yYNVdRlSkWbHM5bxR4w#/</td></tr>
<tr><td>QIP Training – <u>Residential and SLS Providers</u>
(Session 1)

Date & Time: 11/10/2026 at 10:00 AM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TWwllxurRTGapsVYqSU67A#/</td><td>QIP Training – <u>Employment Providers</u>
(Session 1)

Date & Time: 11/09/2026 at 1:00 PM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uBODInYCRQmhmwyIB9f_7A#/registration</td><td>QIP Training – <u>New Providers</u>
(Session 1)

Date & Time: 12/04/2026 at 1:00 PM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kK9cpA7OQYOPwraBONsA0A#/registration</td></tr>
<tr><td>QIP Training – <u>Residential and SLS Providers</u>
(Session 2)

Date & Time: 12/16/2026 at 1:00 PM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GaJS4IXcTICFfHC2VJrOyg#/registration</td><td>QIP Training – <u>Employment Providers</u>
(Session 2)

Date & Time: 01/08/2027 at 1:00 PM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7fCaC-yRSbGMpIGwT5qurg#/</td><td>QIP Training – <u>New Providers</u>
(Session 2)

Date & Time: 01/22/2027 at 1:00 PM

Zoom link: https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CA1eFrqqTXG1vXiX9qEQrg</td></tr>
</table>



Asesoria Gratuita sobre Beneficios

Tiene preguntas o desea obtener mas informacion sobre sus beneficios del seguro social?

Los beneficiarios de la Administracion del Seguro Social pueden reunirse con un Especialista en Beneficios e Incentivos Laborales para informarse sobre como sus ingresos pueden afectar sus beneficios, explorer sus opciones y recibir orientacion.

¡Cupo Limitado!

Integrated Resources Institute tiene la capacidad de brindar apoyo a diez (10) personas a las que se les brindan servicios. La participacion se ofrecera por orden de inscripcion.

Lo que puede esperar:

- Reunion inicial de 1-hora
- Reunion de seguimiento de 1-hora para conversar sobre los resultados obtenidos
- Reuniones virtuales (opcion de reunion en persona a solicitud)

¡Registrese Aqui!

INTEGRATED RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Contactenos

949-815-1271

https://www.irioc.org/

leah@irioc.org



FREE Benefits Counseling

Curious or have questions about your social security benefits?

Social Security Administration beneficiaries can meet with a Work Incentives Benefits Practitioner to learn how earnings may affects benefits, explore options, and receive advice.

Limited Space!

Integrated Resources Insitute is able to support ten (10) people served. First come, first served.

What to expect:

- Initial 1-hour meeting
- Follow-up 1-hour meeting to discuss findings
- Virtual meetings
  - (in-person by request)

Register Here!

INTEGRATED RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Contact Us

949-815-1271

https://www.irioc.org/

leah@irioc.org

Academy
IDD SUPPORTER EDUCATION

LIVE Webinar

FATAL FIVE PLUS
AND THE MEDICATIONS THAT AFFECT THEM

Learn how to reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality in people with IDD.

PRESENTERS



Dr. Craig Escudé
FAAFP, FAADM, FAAIDD



Daleigh Tallent
MSN, RN, CDDN

Tuesday
December 1st
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Register

About the Live Webinar

Join us for a live, updated discussion about the most common preventable causes of illness and death in people with IDD and the medications that can both positively and negatively affect them.

Participants Will Be Able To:

- Describe the conditions most likely to lead to morbidity and mortality in people with IDD, known as the Fatal Five+
- Describe the medications used to treat the Fatal Five+ conditions
- Describe the medications that could exacerbate the Fatal Five+ conditions, enabling them to identify and mitigate risks associated with these medications

This training is recommended for anyone supporting people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), including:

- Regional Center staff (service coordinators, clinicians, managers)
- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
- Residential and day program staff
- SLS and ILS staff
- Quality assurance and risk management staff
- Family members, supporters, and advocates

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Made possible by DDS HCBS Funding.

IntellectAbility®
REPLACING RISK WITH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Quality Assurance and HCBS Training

For NLACRC providers and their employees. Hosted and Presented by Beyond Compliance

CEUs available

DATE

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

TIME

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PST

WHERE

Virtual

What you will learn

Check HCBS compliance

How to check if your program meets HCBS rules.

Track quality

Simple ways to track the quality of your services.

Stay person-centered

How to keep services person-centered, every day.

Take tools home

Practical tools and resources to take back to your team.

Save your spot

RSVP at **beyondcompliancesupports.com** (Events page).

Scan to RSVP

INTEGRATED RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Free Entry!

For Service Providers of:

North Los Angeles Regional Center
Inland Regional Center
Alta Regional Center



Website Portfolio and Content Creation Workshop

How to use digital tools to support jobseekers ready to showcase their unique skills, personal brand, and creative projects directly to prospective employers.

Learn How to:

- Use simple platforms to easily create professional website portfolios
- Create quality digital content with smartphones , cameras, and other tools
- Framing a story to represent a job seeker by using a portfolio

3 Available Online Workshops!

Thursday 12/3/2026

or

Thursday 12/10/2026

or

Thursday 12/17/2026

10am-12pm PM For each Workshop

Workshops conducted via Zoom

Cost is FREE!

Provided through HCBS Funding

More Information

www.iri-pec.org

To Register: CLICK HERE **or Scan**