

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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January 13, 2021

**TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

**SUBJECT: HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES REGULATIONS –  
PROVIDER FUNDING FOR COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES**

In January 2014, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued final regulations, or rules, for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The rules require that HCBS programs funded through Medicaid (called Medi-Cal in California) provide individuals with disabilities full access to the benefits of community living and offer services and supports in settings that are integrated in the community. This could include opportunities to seek employment in competitive and integrated settings, control personal resources, and engage in the community to the same degree as individuals who do not receive regional center services. The HCBS rules focus on the nature and quality of individuals' experiences and not just the settings where the services are delivered.

In recognition that services look different during the COVID-19 public health crisis and some service providers need to take steps towards modifying their services to come into compliance with the HCBS rules by March 2023, the 2020 enacted budget contains \$15 million to fund necessary changes. Enclosed is the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) Fiscal Year 2020-21 HCBS Provider Compliance Funding Guidelines for service providers who wish to apply for funding. The Department will post this letter and the Guidelines on its website. Regional centers should share the Guidelines with their service providers and community.

The Department will hold two, one-hour webinars to review the funding application process and answer questions. The webinars will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, January 21, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To register for any of the above webinars, follow the instructions found at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations/hcbs-compliance-funding/>.

**“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”**

Regional Center Executive Directors  
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We look forward to collectively working through this process as we move towards meeting the HCBS rules. Please direct any questions regarding this letter to [HCBSregs@dds.ca.gov](mailto:HCBSregs@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

MARICRIS ACON  
Deputy Director  
Federal Programs Division

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Chief Counselors  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Regional Center HCBS Program Evaluators  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Nancy Bargmann, Department of Developmental Services  
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services  
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services  
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services  
LeeAnn Christian, Department of Developmental Services  
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services