

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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March 29, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE REGARDING RATES FOR NEW VENDORS FOR
ALTERNATIVE NONRESIDENTIAL SERVICES

As follow up to the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) [August 31, 2020](#) Directive regarding Alternative Nonresidential Services (Alternative Services) during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, the purpose of this correspondence is to provide guidance for establishing monthly rates for Alternative Services for new vendors.

For purposes of this guidance, a "new vendor" is defined as either 1) a vendorization that began in March 2020 or later; or 2) a vendorization that did not provide services within a regional center's catchment area during the 12-month period ending February 2020. New vendors may be approved for monthly rates for Alternative Services by the Department on a case-by-case basis. As a reminder, Alternative Services are intended only if services provided traditionally, remotely, or in a different location are not feasible to meet consumers' individual needs, but alternate options will.

Regional centers must submit a request to the Department using the following procedure and the enclosed form and instructions:

1. Regional center (or the Department if appropriate) establishes the rate for traditional service delivery for the new vendor.
2. Regional center determines the expected average number of days/hours of service per month consumers would be expected to use if the service was delivered traditionally.
3. Multiply the results of steps #1 and #2 to get a potential monthly rate for Alternative Services for the new vendor.
4. Compare the rate calculated in step #3 to vendors of similar services, rates and actual/estimated service utilization patterns and make any adjustments necessary.
5. Requests should be submitted to the Department (see Enclosure) for approval of the new vendor and proposed monthly rate within 45 days of the date of this guidance.
6. The regional center may utilize the proposed rate submitted in step #5 until the Department completes its review and determination. If a different rate is approved, adjustments to reimbursements using the proposed rate may be necessary.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

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Questions from regional centers may be submitted to DDSC19Directives@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosure

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