

# NOTICE

**Date:** December 5, 2023

**To:** ELARC Service Providers

**Subject:** New Minimum Wage effective January 1, 2024 & Rate Increase Requests

Effective January 1, 2024, due to the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 3, the minimum wage in California increased to \$16.00 per hour for all employers. As authorized by the current State budget and the changes to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) – sections 4681.6(b), 4691.6(f) and (g), and 4691.9(b), many vendors will either receive, or may be eligible to request, a rate increase in order to adjust employees' pay to comply with the state new minimum wage. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provided regional centers with information sent to regional center directors via a DDS letter dated December 1, 2023. To view this letter go to [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov) and click on Vendor tab; then click Minimum Wage, and then click on "letter from the Department to regional centers regarding the minimum wage increase" in "Where can I get more information."

Rate adjustment requests may be submitted to DDS or to Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center depending on how the original rate was set. For rates set by DDS, the following service provider types are required to connect directly with DDS through the website, see instruction for the DDS letter as stated above. The service provider types correspond to the following service codes; 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 805, 862 and 954. Vendors can submit requests to DDS, with a copy to ELARC, per the DDS letter all requests must be received by DDS no later than **March 1, 2024**.

For services with rates originally set by the regional center through negotiations between the regional center and the provider, vendors must submit rate adjustment requests with supporting documentation to ELARC by **March 1, 2024**.

**IMPORTANT:** Vendors be informed that cities and counties are allowed to enact minimum wage rates and adopt ordinances which establish a higher minimum wage rate for employees working within their local jurisdiction. The employer must follow the stricter standard; that is, the one that is the most beneficial to the employee. According to California law, if a local entity (city or county) has adopted a higher minimum wage, employees must be paid the local wage where it is higher than the state or federal minimum wage rates.

Rates for Alternate Residential Model (ARM) rates/respite facilities for community care facilities have already been established, effective January 1, 2024; these rates can be viewed at the DDS website at [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov); click on the vendor/provider information tab; click on Minimum Wage; then click on "letter from the Department to regional centers regarding the minimum wage increase" in "Where can I get more information." These rates also affect respite facilities (service code 869).

Should you have any questions or need additional information about rates set through negotiation with ELARC please contact Jessica Barba at (626) 299-4711 or at [jbarba@elarc.org](mailto:jbarba@elarc.org).

cc: Edith Hernandez; Elizabeth Harrell; Patricia Alvarez; Jose Morales, Johnny Trombley, Myra Reyes; Karen Souquette; Jessica Acosta-Barba; Doris Weis; Janette Lacayo; Assoc. Chiefs; Supervisors; Community Services Specialists.