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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 3, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: ABSENCE BILLINGS DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND OTHER UPDATES

Background

When the Governor of California declares a State of Emergency, the Department of Developmental Services (Department), has the authority to authorize regional centers to pay vendors for specified absences that are the direct result of the State of Emergency pursuant to Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 54326(a)(11), which 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.”

New

Thompson Fire in Butte County

On July 3, 2024, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency in Butte County to support the Thompson Fire. This may impact vendor services in Far Northern Regional Center’s catchment area. For additional details of the declared State of Emergency, please visit: [Governor Newsom proclaims state of emergency in response to Thompson Fire](#).

Updates

Winter Storms

Starting in December 2023, several powerful, slow moving, storms struck California. As a result, Governor Newsom declared States of Emergency in the following counties:

Regional Center Executive Directors
July 3, 2024
Page two

- [January 23, 2024](#): San Diego and Ventura
- [February 4, 2024](#): Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura
- [March 22, 2024](#): Alameda, Butte, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Monterey, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Sutter
- [May 3, 2024](#): Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Bernadino, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity and Ventura

On June 21, 2024, Governor Newsom expanded the winter storm States of Emergency to nine additional counties that may have impacted vendor services in regional center catchment areas. Those counties include Glenn, Del Norte, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, Solano and Trinity. For additional details of the declared State of Emergency, please visit: [Governor Newsom takes action to support communities recovering from storms 6.21.24](#).

Termination of Open States of Emergency

On July 1, 2024, Governor Newsom ended 22 declared States of Emergency for various prior fires, storms, and other incidents for which a proclamation of a state of emergency is no longer necessary to facilitate response and recovery efforts. For additional details about this action, please visit [Governor Newsom ends multiple open states of emergency 7.1.24 | Governor of California](#).

If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact the Emergency Preparedness and Coordination office by email, at dutyofficer1@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Client Services
Amy Westling, Association of Regional Center Agencies
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