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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 11, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM – DELIVERY OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024 FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE EARLY START PROGRAM

The Department of Developmental Services' (Department) September 23, 2022 [letter](#) describes the Quality Incentive Program (QIP). This correspondence provides information regarding service providers' participation in the QIP Early Intervention measure. The desired outcome of this quality measure is for children less than three years of age and their families to receive rapid delivery of early intervention services. This incentive is available for service providers who initiate early intervention services on or after January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

Eligibility Determination and Incentive Amount

On or after January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, service providers who begin providing a newly authorized early intervention service to a child less than three years of age in the Early Start program are eligible for this incentive. Eligible early intervention service codes are listed in Enclosure C. The tiered incentive amount is based on the length of time between the purchase of service (POS) authorization by a regional center to the date of delivery for that corresponding service code and its subcodes. A table of the tiered incentive amounts is provided in Enclosure A. This incentive does not apply to reauthorized services or eligibility assessments. Some examples of the incentive are provided in Enclosure B.

Incentive Payment Processing

Service providers are not required to submit data to the Department or to regional centers to participate in this incentive. The Department will use data from the Client Master File, POS data, and eBilling information to determine eligible newly initiated early intervention services to a child who at the time of the POS authorization is less than three years of age and in the Early Start program. The Department then will use these data to determine the length of time from the POS authorization by a regional center for that newly initiated service, to the date that the corresponding service first was provided.

Three months after the end of each calendar quarter (i.e., June for the quarter ending March 31), the Department will review available data described above and instruct regional centers to issue incentive payments based on the tiered amounts, to each eligible service provider. The incentive will be paid using a contract authorization, the service code associated with the service provider vendor number, and the subcode "QIPES".

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The Department will issue to each regional center an accounting record of newly initiated services receiving an incentive payment, as evidenced by an eBilling claim. Regional centers can make this record available to service providers. Please note there is a lag in eBilling such that it may be several months for a POS claim to appear in the eBilling record. If the Department does not have information about a particular first date of service that is eligible for an incentive payment, the Department will authorize regional centers to make any additional incentive payments for a prior quarter when the data becomes available after a subsequent quarter.

Conditions for a Provider to Receive Incentive Payments

The Department will validate the provider's eligibility for incentive payments using the following criteria. Before authorizing payment and at the time payment of the incentive is made, the provider must:

1. Meet the eligibility criteria for vendorization under [California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 2, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2](#), as evidenced by being a current regional center vendor.
2. Not be subject to a current corrective action plan or sanction by a regional center as identified in the Department's December 1, 2023 [directive](#).

Additional Information

The Department will provide a webinar for service providers on May 1, 2024 to explain the details of these measures, their calculation and logistics, and issuance of incentive payments. The Department encourages regional centers to inform service providers of this webinar.

For questions regarding this QIP measure or the incentive payments, please email QIPQuestions@DDS.CA.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

PETE CERVINKA
Chief, Data Analytics and Strategy

Enclosures

cc: See next page.

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