

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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August 24, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO
COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PAYMENTS
EFFECTIVE JULY 2021

A. PURPOSE

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4870 (Enclosure A) was amended as of July 16, 2021, pursuant to Assembly Bill 136. Competitive integrated employment (CIE) is full or part-time work for which an individual is paid minimum wage or greater in a setting with others who do not have disabilities. Section 4870(d) authorizes funding to the Department of Developmental Services (Department) for incentive payments to providers for placement and retention of regional center consumers, consistent with a consumer's Individual Program Plan (IPP). The purpose of this correspondence is to delineate changes to W&I Code section 4870 and the subsequent changes to the "Guidelines for Implementation of Competitive Integrated Employment Incentive Payments" issued by the Department on August 5, 2016 (Enclosure B).

B. FUNDING

Incentive payments shall be made to the service provider who, on or after July 1, 2016, places an individual into CIE as described in W&I Code sections 4851(o) and 4868(d) and the individual is still competitively employed for the specified milestones of 30 consecutive days, six consecutive months, and 12 consecutive months.

Effective July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2025, the CIE incentive payments for each milestone reached during this time period is as follows:

- (1) A payment of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) if the individual is still engaged in CIE after 30 consecutive days, as described in W&I Code sections 4851(o) and 4868(d).
- (2) An additional payment of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), if the individual in paragraph (1) remains in CIE for six consecutive months.
- (3) An additional payment of three thousand dollars (\$3,000), if the individual in paragraph (2) remains in CIE for 12 consecutive months.

These increased milestone payments will only apply to milestones reached within the time period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. The CIE placement and earlier milestone payments may have occurred prior to July 1, 2021.

Regional centers shall verify the required duration in the job placement for each incentive payment before funds are provided to the service provider. Payments made pursuant to the incentive program shall not be made in addition to the placement payments pursuant to W&I Code section 4860(d).

A service provider supporting an individual in a paid internship program is not eligible for the above incentives until the individual transitions to CIE [W&I Code section 4870(g)].

C. IMPLEMENTATION

Guidelines for the incentive program are as follows:

- (1) Regional centers shall make information available to service providers regarding incentive payments and changes effective July 1, 2021.
- (2) For CIE incentive payment milestones that are reached from July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2025, the following sub-codes should be utilized:
 - “EMPP” for placement incentive after 30 consecutive days;
 - “EMP6” for six consecutive months’ incentive; and
 - “EMP12” for 12 consecutive months’ incentive.

These new sub-codes are available for use now.

- (3) For CIE incentive payment milestones achieved prior to July 1, 2021, the following sub-codes and payment amounts should continue to be utilized:
 - “CIEP” for placement incentive after 30 consecutive days (\$1,000);
 - “CIE6” for six consecutive months’ incentive (\$1,250); and
 - “CIE12” for 12 consecutive months’ incentive (\$1,500).

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If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact Michael Luna
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Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

ERICA REIMER SNELL
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

Enclosures

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