

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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March 3, 2023

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY – 13 COUNTIES

Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a State of Emergency for counties that may affect vendor services in your regional center catchment area. For additional details of the declared State of Emergency, please visit: [State of Emergency - 13 Counties - Declared March 1, 2023](#)

As a result of the State of Emergency, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 54326(a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of the State of Emergency. CCR, section 54326(a)(11) 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."*

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Cruz".

ERNIE CRUZ  
Deputy Director  
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Chief Counselors  
Regional Center Administrators  
Association of Regional Center Agencies