

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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JULY 8, 2019

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY IN KERN COUNTY

As a result of the magnitude 6.4 earthquake centered near the City of Ridgecrest in Kern County, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency on July 4, 2019, for Kern County.

This earthquake, and multiple aftershocks, continue to impact the region and have caused damage to roads and buildings, resulted in multiple structural fires, and necessitated evacuations. In addition, this earthquake, damaged critical infrastructure, including electrical service lines, water lines, and gas lines, impacting thousands of customers.

The circumstances of this earthquake, by reason of its magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

As a result of the State of Emergency declared for the county listed above, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17, California Code of Regulations section 54326 (a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of these earthquakes in the county listed above. The applicable regulation section reads as follows:

“ [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.”

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

Regional Center Executive Directors
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If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (916) 654-3722, or by email, at rapone.anderson@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

RAPONE ANDERSON
Regional Center Branch Manager
Community Services Division

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