



South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

for persons with developmental disabilities, inc.

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March 14, 2020

To: SCLARC Vendedored Service Providers
From: Kim C. Bowie, Chief of Community Services
Re: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear SCLARC Service Providers,

South Central Los Angeles Regional (SCLARC) received emails from a number of service providers who reported that they are temporarily closing their programs. Others inquired about supplemental funding for residential facilities to address the need to add staffing hours to accommodate individuals who will not be attending day services or school programs. And, a few emailed asking for guidance as to whether they should remain open or close their doors out of an abundance of caution.

SCLARC is not advocating that you close your programs or services. We do advise you to follow the guidelines established by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health. If you have consumers who are considered high risk; meaning they are over the age of 65 or an individual with a vulnerable health condition, or if your program involves serving individuals in a large congregate setting and you are unable to maintain an acceptable per individual social distant, then you should contact SCLARC as soon as possible to discuss if it is best to temporarily discontinue services.

If you have not already closed, please do not make a unilateral decision to do so. Contact SCLARC first to discuss your concerns. We would like to provide input and we need to make you will qualify for temporary reimbursement.

Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency declaration resulted in the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) authorizing regional center directors to approve temporary payment to vendors for absences that occur as the result of the COVID-19 outbreak in California (CA). The directive remains in effect for 30-days, unless extended by the Director of DDS. It allows you to bill for absences "in excess of the average number of absences that occurred during the prior 12 months."

OUR COMMITMENT:

"To educate, empower and advocate."

SCLARC has a number of tools available to reimburse service providers severely impacted by this worldwide health crisis. This includes assisting those who have temporarily closed; those with staffing issues; and programs or services where the census is very low because the individuals we support are fearful of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and are choosing to remain home.

We are providing you copies of three DDS directives related to the State of Emergency and the regional centers' authority to temporarily reimburse vendors. We will email you in a few days to provide guidelines for making your reimburse requests.

If you have other questions or would like to discuss whether you should consider a temporary closure, please contact me at (213) 744-8454/kimb@sclarc.org. Our department secretary will be assisting by checking for COVID-19 virus related voice mail and email messages throughout the day. So, if I am not available, a Community Services staff person will be able to get back to you as soon as possible, with all COVID-19 virus related calls returned or email replies occurring no later than 24-hours after receipt.

Thank you.



Cc: Dexter A. Henderson, Executive Director
Jesse Rocha, Director, Consumer and Support Services
Jenice Turner, Assistant Director, Consumer and Support Services
Maricel Cruzat, Director, Clinical Services
Kyla Lee, Chief Financial Officer
Ted Bilbao, Chief of Case Management
Kimberly Bernardez, Chief of Case Management
Community Services Department Staff

Enclosures: DDS COVID-19 Virus Related Directives