



NANCY BARGMANN
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Developmental Services
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
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NEWSOM**
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September 12, 2023

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REPORTING OF HEALTH AND SAFETY WAIVERS RELATED TO
LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Budget Act of 2021 provided funding for regional centers to have dedicated staff who serve as subject matter experts in the application of the health and safety waiver process to protect the health and safety of non-English speaking consumers. In correspondence dated March 2, 2022 (Enclosure), the Department of Developmental Services (Department) provided guidance to regional centers on these positions. The funding for these positions is for performing the activities specified in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section [4620.4\(f\)](#). These staff are intended to help regional centers track the number of consumers served through this effort and to report this information to the Department annually.

To assist regional centers in identifying the consumers for whom the funding was intended to assist, the Department will follow this correspondence with a separate email to each regional center providing a worksheet of approved health and safety waivers for each regional center since July 1, 2021. Regional centers can use this worksheet or submit their own tracking, to identify the number of consumers served or assisted with the health and safety waiver process in their native language, including American Sign Language, for fiscal year 2021/22 and 2022/23. Please submit the completed worksheet or other tracking document to the Department no later than October 16, 2023.

If you have any questions about this request or the attached worksheet, please contact Yasir Ali, Northern Region Manager, Office of Community Operations, at (916) 654-2302 or via email at yasir.ali@dds.ca.gov.

Regional Center Executive Directors
September 12, 2023
Page two

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to learning how regional centers are using the funding to meet the needs of the individuals you serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Cruz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Community Services
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Greg Nabong, Department of Developmental Services