

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-1958



August 5, 2016

**TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIVE  
INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PAYMENTS**

**A. PURPOSE**

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) was amended to add section 4870(d-g) (Enclosure 1) to increase sustained competitive integrated employment (CIE) placements by regional center service providers. 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). This correspondence provides guidance for the implementation of the incentive payments. The guidelines were developed as a collaborative effort, with input from various stakeholders as a result of two statewide meetings and other means.

**B. FUNDING**

The regional center will be responsible for making incentive payments to service providers within their catchment area [WIC 4870(d)]. The incentive payment amount for each individual placed in CIE is as follows:

1. A payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be made to the service provider who, on or after July 1, 2016, places an individual into CIE [WIC 4851(o) and 4868(d)], and the individual is still competitively employed after 30 consecutive days.
2. An additional payment of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) shall be made to the service provider for an individual described in paragraph (1) who remains in CIE for six consecutive months.
3. An additional payment of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) shall be made to the service provider for an individual described in paragraphs (1) and (2) who remains in CIE for 12 consecutive months.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**

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 subdivision (d) of section 4860.

A service provider supporting an individual in a paid internship program (Enclosure 2) is not eligible for the above incentives until the individual transitions to CIE [WIC 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.
  - The suffix "CIE" will be added to existing service codes as a sub-code as follows:
    - a. 952-CIEP for placement incentive after 30 consecutive days;
    - b. 952-CIE6 for six consecutive months' incentive; and
    - c. 952-CIE12 for 12 consecutive months' incentive.
  - The Department will issue a technical bulletin regarding the use of sub-codes.
2. Service providers are not required to apply for a new vendorization; however, they may need to submit a program design addendum to the regional center describing the services and supports created to assist consumers in achieving placement in CIE. Regional centers will need to approve the program design addendums.
3. Regional centers should work with service providers to provide outreach to potential employers, schools and other entities to facilitate the success of sustainable CIE.
4. Employment placement wages will be, at least, state or local minimum wage [WIC 4868(d)(l)].
5. There is no minimum or maximum hour requirement; however, there is a cap on incentive funding as specified above.

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#### **D. DATA COLLECTION**

To ensure program accountability and achievement of program goals [WIC 4868(c) (3-6)], regional centers and service providers are required to report, (in a format to be determined by the Department) to the Department by October 1, 2017, and each October 1 annually, the number of individuals placed in internships or other employment, as described in this section.

If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact Denyse Curtright at (916) 654-2208, or by electronic mail at [denyse.curtright@dds.ca.gov](mailto:denyse.curtright@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

BRIAN WINFIELD  
Acting Deputy Director  
Community Services Division

Enclosures

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

**State of California**

**WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE**

**Section 4870**

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4870. (a) To encourage competitive integrated employment opportunities statewide for individuals with developmental disabilities, the department shall establish guidelines and oversee a program, to the extent funds are appropriated in the annual Budget Act for this purpose, to increase paid internship opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities that produce outcomes consistent with the individual program plan. The department shall consult with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, regional centers, employers, supported employment provider organizations, and clients' rights advocates, to establish a program that shall be administered by community service providers and that meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Payments for internships shall not exceed ten thousand four hundred dollars (\$10,400) per year for each individual placed in an internship.

(2) Placements shall be made into competitive, integrated work environments.

(3) Placements shall be made into internships that develop skills that will facilitate paid employment opportunities in the future.

(4) Regional centers shall increase awareness of these internships to consumers outside of current employment programs through outreach to consumers once the program is implemented, as well as during the individual program plan process.

(b) The department shall require annual reporting by regional centers and vendors that ensures program accountability and achievement of program goals. This shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) The number of interns placed who might not otherwise have achieved the placement absent this internship program.

(2) Types of employment in which interns are placed.

(3) Length of internships.

(4) Demographic information of interns.

(5) Amount of each intern placement payment.

(6) Employment-related supports provided by another agency or individual to the intern.

(7) Number of interns who subsequently entered paid employment, including salary and benefit information.

(8) Any additional information, as determined by the department.

(c) The department shall include in its annual May Revision fiscal estimate a description of the implementation of the program, including, but not limited to, a description of the stakeholder consultation, the data described in subdivision (b), aggregated by regional center and statewide, and any recommendations for program

changes that may be necessary or desirable to maximize program effectiveness and accountability.

(d) Consistent with the individual program plan, the program shall increase sustained and appropriate competitive integrated employment placements by regional center service providers, as follows:

(1) A payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be made to the regional center service provider that, on or after July 1, 2016, places an individual into competitive integrated employment, and the individual is still competitively employed after 30 consecutive days, as described in subdivision (o) of Section 4851 and subdivision (d) of Section 4868.

(2) An additional payment of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) shall be made to the regional center service provider for an individual described in paragraph (1) who remains in competitive integrated employment for six consecutive months.

(3) An additional payment of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) shall be made to the regional center service provider for an individual described in paragraphs (1) and (2) who remains in competitive integrated employment for 12 consecutive months.

(e) Regional centers shall annually report to the department the payments for placements pursuant to subdivision (d). The information shall be reported in a format determined by the department, and shall include the number of individuals placed in internships or other employment as described in this section each year.

(f) The payments made pursuant to this section shall not be in addition to the placement payments made pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 4860.

(g) Regional center service providers that place individuals into internships under subdivision (a) are not eligible for the employment placement incentives under this section, until the individual is transitioned into a competitive integrated employment placement that is not funded as an internship.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 26, Sec. 16. (AB 1606) Effective June 27, 2016.)