



## Important Message for the Valley Mountain Regional Center Providers

Last July 2016 the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) granted rate increases to many service providers at a variety of different rates. At the time the providers were told that a portion of that rate increase was required to go directly to increasing wages and benefits for staff who spend a minimum of 75 percent of their time providing direct services to consumers. The next step is for DDS to send providers a survey to report on how they spent the money. However before they do that, DDS wants your feed on the survey tool itself. Please take a moment to review the survey and **tell DDS your thoughts** about the survey, how it could be improved, or anything not clear to you in the survey.

### DDS Efforts to Draft a Good Survey

#### **Draft Survey** – May 1-24, 2017

- Disseminate a draft survey to several provider and advocacy organizations and ask regional centers to share this with providers in your area for their comments, suggestions and other feedback. It is important that a wide variety of providers have an opportunity to provide input. Comments and questions can be submitted via email to [vendorsurvey@dds.ca.gov](mailto:vendorsurvey@dds.ca.gov).
- DDS has scheduled two webinars/conference calls to review the draft survey, answer questions and take suggestions and comments. The calls are scheduled for **Friday, May 5, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.** and **Wednesday May 10, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.** Information on how to register for these calls can be found at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/ratechangesJuly2016/index.cfm>.
- DDS will coordinate with stakeholders, such as provider organizations and regional center vendor advisory committees, to discuss strategies and process, including alternative methods for distribution and completion of the survey.
- During this time, DDS develop a secure, online option for submitting the survey to lessen the workload for both providers and regional centers.

#### **May 25-31, 2017**

- DDS will schedule a meeting/conference call to review comments and recommendations received and post a summary of comments on their website.
- The survey will be finalized during this time, including any needed revisions.

## Final Survey – June 1-October 1, 2017

- DDS plans to release the final survey by **June 1, 2017**
- DDS will schedule multiple webinars/conference calls to provide guidance and answer questions
- DDS will be available to participate in meetings with provider organizations, vendor advisory committees and others to help answer questions.
- Further, responses to frequently asked questions will be available on the Department's website.

### Other Important Facts:

- The final version, with instructions on how to submit the completed survey, is planned for release on **June 1, 2017**.
- The survey must be returned by **October 1, 2017**, or providers will forfeit the rate increase.
- "It's recommended that responses apply to **January through March, 2017**. However, you can use any period of at least one month between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017."



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