

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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September 12, 2022

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES PAYMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4639.6 authorizes the Director of the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to issue directives to regional centers as the Director deems necessary to protect consumer rights, health, safety, or welfare, or in accordance with W&I Code section 4434. Regional centers must comply with directives issued by the Director pursuant to this section.

In response to concerns raised by family members and Financial Management Services (FMS) providers regarding invoicing and payment processes, and to ensure services and supports vital to the health, safety or wellbeing of Self-Determination Program participants are uninterrupted, the Department is requiring regional centers to:

1. Effective October 1, 2022, and until this directive is rescinded, notify the FMS provider within three business days of the planning team finalizing any change in a participant's spending plan.
2. Effective October 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, establish a schedule by which the regional center will provide payment to FMS providers on a weekly basis, including for services that have been provided in the current month, as invoices are submitted by the FMS provider.

**“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”**

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If participants and/or their families have questions regarding this directive, they should contact their regional center. Questions from regional centers should be directed to [sdp@dds.ca.gov](mailto:sdp@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

NANCY BARGMANN  
Director

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Brian Winfield, DDS  
Carla Castañeda, DDS  
Jim Knight, DDS  
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Tim Travis, DDS