

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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April 16, 2020

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TRAINING RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS
HIRING DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) recognizes the impact of COVID-19 on residential service providers and is exploring ways to support regional centers and providers during this time.

Given the impact of COVID-19, recruiting and training new staff may be challenging, especially with changes in access to Direct Support Professional (DSP) and other training programs. Regional centers are encouraged to work with their service providers and vendor advisory committees as staffing needs in residential settings increase. Day program DSPs and other displaced staff who are committed to and have experience supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be viable candidates to meet current and newly developed residential staffing needs. These staff may already have cleared background checks and fingerprinting, first aid/CPR certifications and many transferable skills.

To support regional centers, as well as residential service providers who want to work with non-residential service providers to support residential needs or to directly hire available staff during this challenging time, the Department has compiled links to training slides, reading materials, videos, and tools that can be accessed at www.dds.ca.gov/corona-virus-information-and-resources, under the "Training" tab. This page is meant to serve as an easy access point to training resources to supplement existing resources for regional centers and residential service providers. Other resources are also available on the webpage and may be utilized for training purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact Ernie Cruz at ernie.cruz@dds.ca.gov. If you have general questions or concerns related to COVID-19, please send your inquiry to DDSC19@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Regional Center Board Presidents
Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"