

Hello San Andreas Service Providers,

September 19, 2016

A couple of years ago the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a “Final Rule” regarding changes the federal government is requiring to services which are funded through their Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) Waiver program. (Virtually all services you provide in CA are, at least in part if not fully, funded by the HCBS Waiver.) The CMS Final Rule mandates that all states submit a plan to the federal government outlining how services in that state will change in order to come into compliance with these new requirements. California is currently in a back and forth process with the federal government in an effort to get the California compliance plan approved.

Once CA’s plan is approved, service providers may need to change the way they provide services; e.g. “settings that isolate” are generally considered undesirable. Such a setting would be one in which people with intellectual/developmental disabilities are provided services in the absence of people **without** intellectual/developmental disabilities. In these cases, service providers may have to make changes to the way they provide services. The CA legislature has made grant funding available this fiscal year (16-17) to be awarded to service providers who want to make changes to their programming to come into compliance with the CMS Final Rule.

Another part of the change coming as a result of the CMS Final Rule, is a renewed and greater emphasis on getting people with developmental disabilities into employment. Also, a federal law was passed called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which mandates that we all do a much better job in making employment opportunities available to those with any type of disability, including intellectual/developmental disabilities.

In response to both of these initiatives, the CA legislature has also made funding available for the following two programs;

1. Payment of minimum wage to people with developmental disabilities while they take part in internship programs.
2. Incentive payments to providers who find employment for people with developmental disabilities.

Please join us **electronically** this Thursday, September 22, from 2:00-3:30 for an overview of the CMS Final Rule as well as an overview of the above opportunities for funding. You’re invited to call SARC Public Meeting on Lifesize.

1. Connect over video

<https://call.lifesizecloud.com/extension/3889392>

Connecting from a Lifesize conference room system? Just dial 3889392 with the keypad.

2. Call in by phone

United States: +1 (844) 572-5683 extension 3889392

Mexico: +52 81 4624 4460 extension 3889392

United States: +1 (512) 489-3100 extension 3889392

We can also accommodate up to 65 people in our meeting room. If you plan to attend this meeting **in person**, please RSVP by replying to this email. We’ll confirm registration for the first 65 to email.

Looking forward to a robust discussion of these funding opportunities. Thank you!

Jeff

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