



May 15, 2007

TO: ALL In-Home Respite Voucher Services-Family Members

FR: Regional Center of the East Bay

RE: Change in Respite Voucher Services Rate

The State of California Department of Developmental Services recently increased the "In Home Respite Voucher Services- Family Member" rate from \$8.83 per hour to \$10.12 per hour, as a result of the State of California minimum wage increase. The effective date of the increase in rate is retroactive to January 1, 2007.

Regional Center of the East Bay has provided a "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" on the back of this letter to assist our families with general information regarding the increase. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your RCEB Case Manager.

Thank you for your continued support.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the new "In-Home Respite Voucher-Family Member" rate and what is the effective date?

The new rate for In- Home Respite Voucher-Family Member is \$10.12 per hour effective January 1, 2007.

Why did the rate for "In-Home Respite Voucher-Family Member" increase?

Effective January 1, 2007, the minimum wage in California was increased from \$6.75 to \$7.50. As a result, the State of California Department of Developmental Services increased the In-Home Respite Voucher-Family Member rate from \$8.83 per hour to \$10.12 per hour. This rate includes the wage you pay your worker, as well as payroll taxes and fringe benefits.

Why are Family Members receiving notices about the increases now?

The State of California Department of Developmental Services did not notify Regional Centers of this rate increase until May 8, 2007.

Do I get a retroactive check for the difference in rate? If so, when will I receive this payment?

Yes. RCEB will issue a retroactive payment check to families that have already billed for January, February, March and April 2007 service months. RCEB will begin paying at the new rate automatically starting with May 2007 service month billings.

RCEB expects to get retroactive payments to our families no later than 60 days from the date of this notice.

Are all family members eligible to receive this increase?

The rate increase will apply to all respite voucher services authorized by RCEB and provided to our consumers effective 1/1/07 or later.

Do I need to submit revised invoices to receive the retroactive payment?

If you already submitted your timesheet for January 2007 services and forward, family members will **not** need to submit a revised invoice to receive the retroactive payment. RCEB will automatically calculate the difference in rate, and forward the retroactive adjustment to family members.

When I get the retroactive adjustment check, am I expected to use these funds to retroactively pay my respite worker? What about the payroll taxes?

Yes. State of California regulations intended that funds be used to pay your worker a higher wage. Therefore, it is expected that you will pass these funds on to your respite worker. Unfortunately, RCEB cannot provide tax advice to our families therefore we strongly recommend that you contact a tax advisor regarding any payroll and tax obligations.

Who should I call if I have any questions?

Please contact your RCEB Case Manager if you have any questions.