

San Diego Regional Center

Health & Safety Waiver

What is a Health & Safety Waiver?

An H&S Waiver authorizes the Department (DDS) to approve exemptions to rate freezes, to lessen the risks to a consumer's health & safety.



Which vendor can apply for a H&S waiver?

- Independent & Supported Living
- Respite Agencies
- CPP and Deflection homes
- Day Programs & Adult Activity Centers
- Behavioral Management Programs
- Social Recreational Programs
- In-Home Respite Agencies
- Work Activity Programs
- Residential facilities

What would be an example of a qualifying need for a H&S waiver?

- Medical: ex. Injections, oxygen support, Nursing for colostomy, treatment of wounds
- Psychiatry oversight
- Behaviors: additional staff to support behaviors, behavior intervention training
- Supported Living Services/Independent Living Services
- Transportation, including travel reimbursement
- Socialization training programs/Mobile day programs
- Community integration training programs
- Community activities support services/Adaptive skills trainer
- Supplemental day services program supports

Language Barriers?

If you serve individuals for whom you are unable to identify services/supports, due to a language barrier, an H&S waiver may be requested to obtain a higher rate for the vendor to hire staff who may provide services/supports for this individual, in their native language.

Alternative Services

Regional Centers must consider alternative services, including staffing, augmentation specific to risk mitigation for a consumer, or group of consumers. Such may include natural supports, medical insurance, or other generic resources.

Per W&I 4691.9:

(1) A regional center shall not pay an existing service provider, for services where rates are determined through a negotiation between the regional center and the provider.

NOTE: California Department of Health Care Services' Medi-Cal Schedule of Maximum Allowances (SMA) and Self-Determination Program (SDP) rates are not eligible for Health & Safety Waivers because those rates are already established outside of the regional center.

How to apply for a H&S waiver?

Step 1: SDRC identifies a need (if unsure, reach out to the Health & Safety Waiver Specialist).

Step 2: Vendor completes the "Health & Safety Waiver worksheet" and submits an official letter of request.

Step 3: Health & Safety Specialist will review the worksheet and all other documents needed.

Step 4: SDRC completes the Waiver Request and Checklist and sends it to DDS within 30 days of receiving the waiver from the vendor.

Step 5: DDS will review and respond to SDRC within five days.

How long does this process take?

This process can take anywhere from three months to a year, depending on how quickly the vendor responds to both SDRC and DDS' requests/questions that may arise throughout the process.

CONTACTS

HSwaiver@sdrc.org

858-503-5419 | PH

858-503-4443 | Fax