

## **Service Standards for Social and Recreational Activities, Camps, Educational Services and Non-Medical Therapies**

**Guidelines:** People with developmental disabilities often face many barriers to developing real and lasting friendships in many social and recreational settings. WRC is committed to supporting the social and recreational needs of individuals we serve. Each individual will participate in a person-centered planning process in which interests, and strengths are identified, and a circle of support determines what needs are present and what social and recreational services may be appropriate to meet those needs. Support to access social and recreational activities may also include education to the provider about accessibility and accommodations, and/or additional supports to ensure successful participation and inclusion. All services must be provided by regional center vendors.

**Children:** Families are encouraged to seek cost effective social and recreational opportunities in the community/natural environment of the child with a disability; as they would for any child without a disability. Regional center funding may be granted for registration and tuition fees when the child's behavioral support needs, physical needs, developmental needs, or financial circumstances preclude participation in most social activities. In this case, funding may be considered based on the goals identified in the Individual Program Plan (IPP).

**Adults:** Any adult with a developmental disability living at home or on his or her own should have access to social or recreational activities in their own community. If they are accessing an adult day program, it is the responsibility of the program to provide opportunities for social and recreational activities. If the adult lives in a licensed home, it is the responsibility of the residential program to provide appropriate social and recreational activities. Many adults that attend day services or reside in licensed homes may still seek additional social and recreational activities on an individualized basis. Funding may be considered for those recreational activities based on the goals identified in the Individual Program Plan (IPP) and person-centered plan as they support building friendships and community involvement.

### **SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

*Examples: Mommy and Me classes, swimming, sports clubs, dance classes and gymnastics*

Social and recreational activities are services which support an individual's pursuit of personal relationships, hobbies, and overall wellness. These services are designed to

enhance opportunities for social interactions, teach specific skills and foster a sense of community, as well as provide enjoyment in daily life. WRC is committed to providing information on free and cost effective social and recreational opportunities with organizations in our catchment area that provide social outlets for WRC individuals within their own communities. Examples of such resources include, but are not limited to, Parks and Recreation, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Special Olympics, religious youth programs, recreational school programs, sports activities, circles of support, etc. Westside Family Resource and Empowerment Center also provides additional information on community activities.

## **Criteria**

Funding for social and recreational activities requires the following criteria be met:

- Strengths, interests, skills, and needs are identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP
- First, get in touch with your WRC Service Coordinator when a potential social and recreational activity is identified.
- Community resources are explored to meet those interests and needs prior to requesting WRC funding. WRC funding will be reviewed for cost-effectiveness pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 4646 (a).
- Recommendations for services, strategies, and intensity are individualized and consider the individual's strengths, support needs, family culture, and individual's preferences.
- Services take place in the natural environment of the individual.
- The regional center does not fund social or recreational activities in place of respite, day care (specialized supervision), or school services.
- The funded program must be integrated and inclusive and/or compliant with Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule.

## **Period of Services / Renewal:**

- Activities may be funded up to 6 hours per week when services are funded at an hourly rate; program registration fees will be assessed on an individual basis in alignment with usual and customary rates within the community.
- Proposed services are reviewed for cost effectiveness.
- The number of hours should reflect the needs identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP and should consider the total constellation of existing services and supports.
- Requests for exceptions will be discussed with the service coordinator and the IPP planning team and then presented to the Purchase of Service committee for review. Please see the Exception section for additional information.

## **CAMPS**

*Examples: day camps and overnight camps*

Day camp services provide a creative, interactive experience for a limited period of hours per day and days per year. These services contribute to the individual's mental, physical, and social growth by facilitating access to preferred activities. Residential camps (also known as overnight camps) must meet Title 17 regulations and the criteria for WRC vendorization. These services provide a creative experience on a 24-hour per day basis for a limited period of time and contribute to the individual's mental, physical, and social growth. Camping services and associated travel expenses must demonstrate a cost-effective measure to meet the needs of the individual within the state of California.

### **Criteria**

Funding for camp requires the following criteria be met:

- Strengths, interests, skills, and needs are identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP.
- First, get in touch with your WRC Service Coordinator when a potential camp activity is identified.
- Community resources are explored to meet those interests and needs prior to requesting WRC funding. WRC funding will be reviewed for cost-effectiveness pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 4646 (a).
- Consideration for funding for camp will include review of school schedules for school-age individuals.
- The regional center does not fund camp in place of respite, day care (specialized supervision), school services, or extended school year supports.
- The funded program must be integrated and inclusive and/or compliant with HCBS Final Rule if the request for service extends beyond 30 consecutive days.

### **Period of Services / Renewal:**

- Services are time limited with camp services funded for up to two cycles per year and with a maximum of 60 days per fiscal year.
- Program registration fees will be assessed on an individual basis in alignment with usual and customary rates within the community.
- Services are considered for cost effectiveness and the number of hours should reflect the needs identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP and should consider the total constellation of existing services and supports.
- Requests for exceptions will be discussed with the service coordinator and the IPP planning team and then presented to the Purchase of Service committee for review. Please see the Exception section for additional information.

### **EDUCATION SERVICES (AGES 3-17)**

Education services such as tutoring, homework assistance and college prep programs may be funded for students 3 to 17 years of age. Tutoring services can be provided when the demonstrated needs exceed what the school can provide, what is available

through generic resources, and through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process.

Regional center is not responsible for funding educational related services and supports which are available through the educational system and/or school district. Regional center is also not responsible for funding Educational Services for individuals residing in a licensed facility or on-going training for foster and biological families of children who have moved into a foster family arrangement.

Tutoring service providers possess the training, education, and/or skill necessary to provide in-home individualized instruction, which is supplementary to, or independent of, instruction provided by the classroom teacher. Tutoring services may also be provided in a group setting within the community.

### **Criteria**

Funding for education services requires the following criteria be met:

- Strengths, interests, skills, and needs are identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP.
- First, get in touch with your WRC Service Coordinator when a potential educational service is identified.
- Community resources are explored to meet those interests and needs prior to requesting WRC funding.
- Circle of support reviews IEP and due process decisions as part of exploring and exhausting generic resources. Any regional center funded services will not replace or duplicate services outlined in the IEP and will be determined through a process of an interdisciplinary team review.
- WRC funding will be reviewed for cost-effectiveness pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 4646 (a).
- Ongoing authorization will be reviewed by the interdisciplinary team for the educational progress of the student while receiving the service.

### **Period of Services / Renewal:**

- Activities may be funded up to 10 hours per month when services are funded at an hourly rate; and/or program registration fees will be assessed on an individual basis in alignment with usual and customary rates within the community.
- Services are considered for cost effectiveness and the number of hours should reflect the needs identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP and should consider the total constellation of existing services and supports.
- Requests for exceptions will be discussed with the service coordinator and the IPP planning team and then presented to the Purchase of Service committee for review. Please see the Exception section for additional information.

### **NON-MEDICAL THERAPIES**

*Examples: specialized art therapy, dance therapy, music therapy and, equestrian therapy*

Non-Medical Therapies provide therapy and/or training to individuals and their families, as necessary for the individual to achieve an Individual Program Plan's objective. Specialized recreation includes, but is not limited to, equestrian therapy, movement therapy and therapeutic play.

**Criteria:**

Funding for non-medical therapies requires the following criteria be met:

- Strengths, interests, skills, and needs are identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP.
- First, get in touch with your WRC Service Coordinator when a potential non-medical therapy is identified.
- Community resources are explored to meet those interests and needs prior to requesting WRC funding.
- WRC funding will be reviewed for cost-effectiveness pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 4646 (a).
- Specialized non-medical therapeutic services shall be provided by credentialed and/or licensed individuals as required by the State of California to practice in the field of therapy being offered.

**Period of Services / Renewal:**

- Non-Medical Therapies may be funded for up to 10 hours per month when services are funded at an hourly rate and/or program registration fees will be assessed on an individual basis in alignment with usual and customary rates within the community.
- Services are considered for cost effectiveness and the number of hours should reflect the needs identified in the Person-Centered Plan/IPP and should consider the total constellation of existing services and supports.
- Requests for exceptions will be discussed with the service coordinator and the IPP planning team and then presented to the Purchase of Service committee for review. Please see the Exception section for additional information.

**Exceptions:**

The service coordinator will discuss the exception with the planning team and then present it to the Purchase of Service committee to review the request for services and necessity for approval. The Executive Director or their designee may review and authorize service requests that do not meet these general standards if warranted by individual circumstances. When an individual or his/her legally authorized representative believes a WRC decision is illegal, discriminatory, or not in the individual's best interest,

Board Approved: 2/9/2022

an appeal can be made to challenge that decision. All processes shall be in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4700-4730.