

Trainings and Conferences for Parents or Guardians

Westside Regional Center believes that trainings and conferences for parents or guardians can be extremely valuable. These trainings and conferences help parents and guardians learn about developmental disabilities, about different types of resources, funding mechanisms, about system issues, and about advocacy techniques. Learning about communication, behavior, and medical needs can be essential in helping parents support their son or daughter at home. The value of the various training opportunities that are available depends on the individual's needs and circumstances.

Westside Regional Center aims to inform parents and guardians about available training and conference opportunities through public information activities and through service coordination activities, through WRC's website and social media accounts. The Family Resource and Empowerment Center also works to inform families about training and available conferences.

Westside Regional Center will pay the cost for parents or guardians to attend conferences or training classes related to the individual needs of their son or daughter under the following guidelines:

1. The funding amount will generally not exceed \$300 per individual served for any one training or conference opportunity over a period 12 months (fiscal year).
2. Funding will be used only for tuition or conference registration fees, and may not be used to pay the cost of hotels, transportation, or late fees.

Requests for higher amounts for training or conference fees as an exception will be reviewed and authorized via WRC's Purchase of Services Committee if warranted by individual circumstances.

Trainings and Conferences for Adults Supported by WRC

Westside Regional Center believes that trainings and conferences can be beneficial for adults to gain knowledge and learn skills in order to become more independent and achieve personal outcomes. Self-advocacy training can be especially valuable to adults who choose to participate. Attendance at conferences also offers opportunities to meet and interact with other adults with developmental disabilities, as well as professionals and others interested in similar issues. The support and encouragement one can gain from such experiences can be extremely helpful. Some training classes offered in the community can provide opportunities to learn skills and interact with people without disabilities.

Therefore, Westside Regional Center may pay for adults to attend training classes or conferences, given the consumers' individual's needs, under the following guidelines:

1. The funding amount will generally not exceed \$300 per individual served for any one training or conference opportunity over a period 12 months (fiscal year).
2. WRC may fund for registration or conference fees, as well as transportation and the cost of lodging if the conference or training occurs outside of the area and there is not a similar conference/training in WRC's catchment area.
3. If several consumers plan to attend the same conference or training which requires an overnight stay, arrangements will be made for room sharing, if the consumers are amenable to sharing a room with another individual, and it is reasonable and appropriate to do so.

Requests for higher amounts for training or conference fees as an exception will be reviewed and authorized via WRC's Purchase of Services Committee if warranted by individual circumstances.