

Transportation Services and Mobility Training- Adult

SERVICE POLICY GUIDELINES

Westside Regional Center is committed to ensuring inclusion, participation, and community involvement for persons with developmental disabilities. Westside Regional Center will advocate, support, and provide for the availability of safe, accessible, cost-effective, public and private transportation for persons with developmental disabilities and, where necessary, their families. To that end, Westside Regional Center will support and assist individuals in accessing generic transportation services that are responsible for serving members of the community.

Westside Regional Center will follow all applicable statutes and regulations, including the Lanterman Act (Welfare and Institutions Code 4646.5 and 4648.35, TBL changes of 2009 and 2011) and Title 17, as it implements this policy. The Individual Program Plan (IPP) planning process for adults may include a Mobility Assessment when Westside Regional Center is purchasing specialized transportation services to transport the person to and from vendored day services and supports, employment services, the person's community integration, and participation can be safely enhanced by using public transportation services; and, generic transportation services are available and accessible.

Currently, Westside Regional Center support for travel includes the following:

1. Mobility Training to help individuals learn to travel safely as pedestrians, and to use public transportation to arrive safely at designated sites in the community. These services teach such things as: orientation to environment; location of destination sites; time, distance, and directional concepts; safety concepts; traffic and pedestrian signs, symbols and rules; appropriate behavior while traveling; how to obtain a bus pass; routing and use of bus schedules. Providers of service may specialize in Mobility Training or provide this training as a part of another service, such as Independent Living, Supported Employment, Supported Living, or Supported Day.
2. Stipends (mileage reimbursement) provided to family or other individuals based on need to assist with the cost of providing transportation via private vehicles.
3. Payment of fees over those required for the average non-disabled individual for Drivers Education classes for adult individuals who will have access to an automobile and insurance.
4. Commercial transportation, usually by bus or van, to and from regularly scheduled daytime activities, or to emergency medical services.
5. Service Coordination efforts to help individuals locate and gain access to other publicly funded transit or para-transit services funded by City or other government programs, or by other generic agencies. Examples are: Access, Medi-Ride, Dial-a

Ride, etc.

6. Westside Regional Center will pay for the cost of bus passes for adult individuals who are able to use public transportation.

Westside Regional Center recognizes that mobility is essential to full access and participation in the community. Westside Regional Center will give priority to services that ensure adequate access to work or other daytime activity sites, so that individuals are able to travel as necessary in order to increase their level of independence. Modes of travel that are the least restrictive, that are used by members of the general public, and that promote independence by requiring the least reliance on others will also be given priority.

Westside Regional Center requires that all individuals requesting help with travel be assessed for the potential to benefit from Mobility Training. The Service Coordinator will first determine if a full Mobility Training assessment is warranted. If so, the assessment will be purchased from a vendored agency or individual specializing in this type of service.

Mobility Training will teach individuals to get to destinations such as, employment sites, scheduled daytime activities, local shopping sites, leisure and recreation sites, and other points in the community to which travel is necessary or desired by the individual.

Persons accepting individual supported employment jobs will need to be able to travel to and from work using public transportation or their own private transportation methods that fit the days and work hours of the individual's supported employment job placement. Westside Regional Center expects the individuals who are able to pay for all or part of their transportation costs.

If, by assessment, independent travel to community sites is not recommended, the members of the IPP planning team will determine possibilities for assisted travel on public transportation, or for transportation provided via natural support systems. The assisted travel can involve teaming up with a friend, family member, or other support person. Assisted travel can involve paid support to use public transportation if this service is cost effective and time limited and will lead to greater independence for the individual.

Financial assistance in the form of mileage reimbursement to help cover transportation costs, can be given to family, friends, service providers or other community members. This assistance is available only if the person providing the transportation has adequate automobile insurance and a current valid driver's license. It is usually only provided to help cover costs of transport to and from the individual's vendored day or vocational program. Amounts available to assist with costs of transporting individuals are calculated based on the distance of the trip.

Westside Regional Center will assist with the fees for driver education classes under the following circumstances:

1. Westside Regional Center may fund the initial assessment to obtain information about the individual's ability to pass the driving test.

2. The individual has or will have access to a vehicle and has or will have the resources to purchase the necessary licenses and insurances.
3. The first 15 hours of classes will be the responsibility of the individual as this is normally incurred costs for non-disabled individuals. Exceptions to funding any sooner than the first 15 classes will be considered based on financial need by Westside Regional Centers POS funding committee.
4. Westside Regional Center will fund incrementally up to an additional 50 hours if the progress report indicates that the individual will be able to obtain a license within these 50 hours.

Transportation services via commercial companies will only be provided to individuals for whom it has been determined by assessment that commercial transportation is the most appropriate service as the health or safety of the individual would be in jeopardy if he or she traveled via public transportation sources. Prior to funding commercial transportation it must be determined that there is no other source of transportation via generic public services or via natural resource systems, paid or unpaid. Westside Regional Center payments for commercial transportation services are limited to:

1. Travel to and from home to the primary, regularly scheduled daytime activity for the individual.
2. Travel to and from medical or other essential appointments, where these appointments are related to the disability of the individual, and the failure to keep the appointment would be detrimental to the individual.

Transportation by taxi/Uber/Lyft is not considered a cost-effective use of public funds, and will be provided only in highly unusual circumstances. Routine and frequent reassessment will be required and the support will be time limited.

Westside Regional Center recognizes that some individual's needs are so unique that they may not be addressed in this Service Policy and may require an exception. Such requests for an exception to a Service Policy will be made through Westside Regional Center's POS Funding Committee.