



**TITLE:** Employment and Adult Day Services

**DOCUMENT:** Service Standard

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Typically, clients become eligible for employment and adult day services through the regional center at age 22.

### **Employment**

There is a strong societal value placed on employment. Further, the California legislature, through the **Employment First** policy (California Government Code Section 19230), has identified employment as the primary goal for working age adults with developmental disabilities. Therefore, the regional center actively promotes supported or competitive employment and clients who are able to work are expected to work.

Work opportunities for people with a developmental disability, in order of their level of integration, include competitive employment, individual supported employment, group supported employment, and workshops. The regional center assists clients in gaining employment at the highest level of integration consistent with their abilities and interests.

### **Adult Day Services**

Clients who need a greater level of support than is available in a work setting, who retire from work, or who are not eligible for employment may participate in a day activity. For clients who are employed part-time, the regional center may provide funding for a day activity to supplement the hours of employment.

Day services are intended to provide clients who do not work with the opportunity to have a pattern of life similar to non-disabled individuals by providing them with planned activities for up to 30 hours per week.

In selecting a day option, the planning team gives preference to services that offer clients the opportunity to engage in meaningful, age appropriate activities in the community. People are engaged in meaningful activities if they enjoy the activity, if they achieve something through their participation, or if they gain knowledge or skills. The planning team also selects the least costly program that meets the client's needs. The cost of a program is defined to include the cost of the program itself and the cost of transportation to and from the program. The client will not be required to accept the least costly program if it is provided in a more restrictive or less integrated setting than other options.