



TITLE: Supported Living Services Service Standard

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Supported living services (SLS) assist an individual with disabilities to live in a house, apartment or condominium which he owns or leases and to participate in the life of the community according to his needs and preferences. A person with a developmental disability may receive supported living services (SLS) to enable him to reside in an individualized living arrangement of his choice in the community if he is at least 18 years old, has expressed a preference for SLS during the IPP process and the living arrangement is not the residence of the client's parent or conservator.

Clients selecting supported living as a desired option are expected to have adequate financial resources to pay move-in costs, rent utilities, food and other expenses normally incurred by people living in their own home. (See the LRC policy on rent subsidy for circumstances under which an exemption may occur.)

The total annual cost of services purchased for a client in supported living:

- 1) may not exceed the annual cost of all regional center-funded services and supports that would be provided if the client were served in a licensed residential facility of an appropriate level or that are being provided if the client is living in a licensed residential facility of an appropriate level¹, or

¹ If two or more clients live in the same setting and receive services from the same SLS provider, this requirement is considered to be met for all clients if the average (mean) cost for the group of clients satisfies this requirement.

- 2) is within the range of annual costs of supported living arrangements for other clients with comparable needs who are currently receiving SLS from the regional center.

To ensure that clients in or entering into supported living arrangements receive the appropriate amount and type of supports to meet the person's choice and needs as determined by the IPP team, and that generic resources are utilized to the fullest extent possible, the IPP team shall complete a standardized assessment questionnaire at the time of development, review or modification of a client's IPP. The questionnaire shall be used during the individual program plan meetings, in addition to the SLS provider's assessment, to assist in determining whether the services provided or recommended are necessary and sufficient and that the most cost-effective methods of supported living services are utilized.

Regional center-funded services complement generic and natural supports such as In-home Supportive Services (IHSS), subsidized housing and the involvement of family and friends. For clients who are eligible for Medi-Cal, the SLS provider shall assist the client to apply for IHSS no later than 5 days of the client's move into his own home. The regional center does not provide supportive services for a client who meets the criteria to receive IHSS but refuses to apply for this benefit or utilize the benefit if eligible. The regional center executive director may waive this requirement if it is determined that there are extraordinary circumstances and those circumstances are documented in an addendum to the client's IPP.

For all individuals sharing a home and requiring supported living services, the same supported living service provider shall be used as long as that provider is able to meet each individual's needs pursuant to his IPP. The regional center shall consider, in consultation with the service agency, whether tasks (such as meal preparation, shopping and laundry) can reasonably be completed for more than one client with the support of a single support worker. If the decision is that they can be completed with this level of support, the regional center shall purchase the prorated share of the activity for each client.

The regional center may contract with an agency or individual for up to three months prior to a client's anticipated move into his own home in order to assist the client to secure an appropriate residence and arrange support services.

Authorization for supported living services is for a 12-month period and may be renewed based on review by the IPP Team.

Termination of Purchased Services

Purchased services are terminated under the following circumstances:

- The client no longer requires paid supports to live in the community.
- The client no longer wishes to live on his own in the community.

- The client no longer has the financial resources to cover his living expenses and does not qualify for a rent subsidy through an exemption.