



TITLE: Social Recreation, Camp, & Non-Medical Therapies
DOCUMENT: Service Standard
DATE: Approved by the Board of Directors - January 26, 2022

The law requires regional centers to assist persons with developmental disabilities with participating in programs and activities in which they can interact and socialize with typical peers. This is referred to as the “inclusion mandate.” The regional center uses advocacy and public education to expand opportunities for individuals served by the Center to be included in social and recreational activities in the community. This advocacy and public education is done through publications, self-advocacy groups, and public meetings to inform persons served, family members, and service providers about available free or low cost social and recreational opportunities. The regional center also provides training to community recreation programs about developmental disabilities and inclusion strategies.

Children

Families are expected to provide their child with a disability with the same social and recreational opportunities that they would provide for a child without a disability. They are also expected to assume the ordinary associated cost; the regional center may assist financially as an exception for families in which this would cause an undue hardship. Such activities include but are not limited to, karate lessons, swimming, gymnastics, YMCA programs and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, horseback riding, art, dance, and music. In the event that a child served needs extra support in order to engage in an inclusive social or recreational activity in the community, the regional center may provide that support. Such support might include, for example, training for the individuals offering the social or recreational activity, or a support companion for the child in the activity.

The regional center recognizes that participation in a socialization, leisure or recreation program may also be a way to meet a family’s need for respite. Accordingly, the regional center may review the purchase of both respite and social, leisure and recreation services and make individual adjustments to services as agreed to by the family.

Adults

If an adult served by the Center, living in the family home, chooses to participate in a social or recreational activity in the community, the individual would be asked to contribute for the activity using his or her own funds, such as SSI funds, employment income, or other means. The regional center may assist financially as an exception for families in which this would cause an undue hardship. For an adult living in the family

home, the regional center may also review the purchase of both respite and social, leisure and recreation services and make adjustments to services as agreed to by the individual.

If an adult living independently chooses to participate in a social or recreational activity in the community, the individual is expected to contribute for the activity using his or her own funds, such as SSI, employment earnings, or other income; the regional center may assist financially as an exception if this would cause an undue hardship.

If the adult lives in a licensed home, it is the responsibility of the residential program to ensure participation in appropriate social and recreational activities; if an individual wants to pursue individual interests, it is expected that he or she will contribute towards the activity with his or her own money, such as P&I Income or other income.

Additionally, in all cases, if an adult served needs extra support to engage in an inclusive social or recreational activity in the community, the regional center may provide that support. Such support might include, but not be limited to training for the individuals offering the social or recreational activity, the provision of additional support, or a companion for the individual in the activity.

Camping Services

Children

Generally, one week of camp may be purchased as a cost-effective alternative to other extended year programming. The regional center recognizes that participation in camp may also be a way to meet a family's need for respite. Accordingly, the regional center may review the purchase of both respite and camp and make individual adjustments to services as agreed to by the family.

In all cases, families are expected to cover what the cost would be for a child without a disability to access this service; the regional center may assist financially as an exception for families in which this would cause an undue hardship.

Adults

Adults are expected to access age-appropriate recreational services where interaction with adults without disabilities can take place. The regional center recognizes that participation in a camp program may also be a way to meet a family's need for respite. Accordingly, the regional center may review the purchase of both respite and camp and make individual adjustments to services as agreed to by the family.

For other extended vacation types of experiences, individuals are expected to use their own funds, such as SSI and employment earnings; the regional center will also consider financial and non-financial supports on a case by case basis.