

Understanding the New Amended California Law on Social Recreation Services

Regional Center of Orange County

February, 2025



Training Goals

- Overview of the New Law
- Key Changes in the Law
- Restriction No Longer Allowed (New Accessibility for Social Recreation Services)
- Regional Center Social Recreation Policy
- Legislative Intent and Goals
- How to Identify Needs and its Benefits of Social Rec
- Provide a Brief Understanding of Participant Directed Services
- Provide an Overview of the Appeals and Resolution Process

Key Changes in the Law

- Regional Centers to place a high priority on promoting full inclusion and independence through access of social recreation services.
- Regional Centers will make social recreation services widely available to individuals served.
- Regional Centers will increase access to individuals served to participate in an array of social recreation services, so that they may lead the lives that they want in the community.
- Regional Centers to develop a Purchase of Service Policy and Procedures to decrease barriers in accessing social recreation services.
- Regional Centers to expedite and reduce administrative barriers to the utilization of social recreational services.
- Regional Centers will create an easier payment method for social recreation services through Participant-Directed Services.



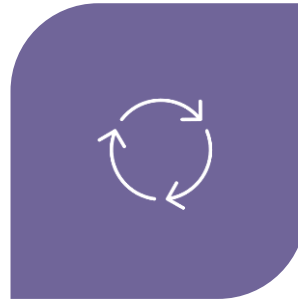
Significant Dates

- By October 1, 2024- Regional Centers will have at least one point of Contact regarding access to social recreation services.
- By January 1, 2025- Regional Centers shall adopt procedures aimed at increasing the availability of providers and expediting vendorizations for social recreation accordingly.
- By March 1, 2025- Regional Center staff will provide access on the RC website all training curriculum or materials, along the dates of training provided to RC staff.
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Effective July 1, 2023, a Regional Center shall not require an individual or family member to do any of the following



CANNOT REQUIRE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) USE FIRST.



NO SERVICE EXCHANGE REQUIRED (E.G., RESPITE HOURS FOR RECREATION HOURS).



NO OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS OR COPAYMENTS.

Legislative Intent and Goals

- Prioritize inclusion through recreation.
- Make services widely available.
- Increase access for children, underserved communities, and those who cannot afford services upfront.
- Reduce administrative barriers to the utilization of these services by consumers to the fullest possible extent.



REGIONAL CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Definition: Social and recreational activities are defined as those services which provide the person served with the opportunity to develop their socialization skills and to participate in family group activities in the home and community. Those services may be provided by Parks and Recreation, Special Olympics, church, school, circles of support, or other resources available to the person served. RCOC staff will provide persons served, families and service providers with information regarding available resources in the community.

Guidelines

A. Criteria

In making recommendations to the person served, family, or service provider regarding available resources in the community, the individual needs of the person served shall be considered by the service coordinator as part of the Planning Team process. RCOC will generally pursue generic resources for social or recreational services, as these should be provided by the family, community, generic resources, or personal funds (SSI, wages, etc.). RCOC staff may authorize social and recreational services related to the disability if the following criteria are met:

1. The need for the service is identified in the person's Individual Program Plan and a specific outcome has been developed to address the need.
2. The individual has no socialization or recreation resources otherwise available to them.
3. Typical parental responsibility to pay for similar services for a minor child without disabilities has been considered.
4. The ability for an adult person served to pay for activities utilizing their personal funds (SSI, wages, etc.) has been exhausted.
5. The identified service is a specialized service or support, or a special adaptation of a generic service or support, and directed toward the alleviation of the individual's developmental disability or toward the achievement and maintenance of an independent, productive, and normal life.
6. The identified service meets required Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) regulations, as appropriate.
7. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the process set forth in the Introduction to these Purchase of Service Guidelines.

B. Levels of Service

The type of program and frequency shall be based on the needs of the person served as determined by the Planning Team.

1. Social and recreational activities may occur once or twice weekly for 6 hours total per week, but is based on the frequency and quantity of services assessed and determined to be needed within the Planning Team process.
2. If the service being authorized is a camp, one session, up to two weeks per year, may be authorized.

C. Period of Service/Renewal

1. In accordance with the Individual Program Plan, services will be reviewed at regular intervals to monitor progress and ensure continued need.
2. Purchase of Service authorizations for social and recreational activities will generally be written for a 6 to 12-month period, as determined by the Planning Team, or for the specific timeframe the activity is offered.
3. Purchase of Service renewals for social and recreational activities will be authorized upon agreement by the Planning Team that reasonable progress toward IPP objectives has occurred and the service continues to be needed.

State of California

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

Section 4688.22

4688.22. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

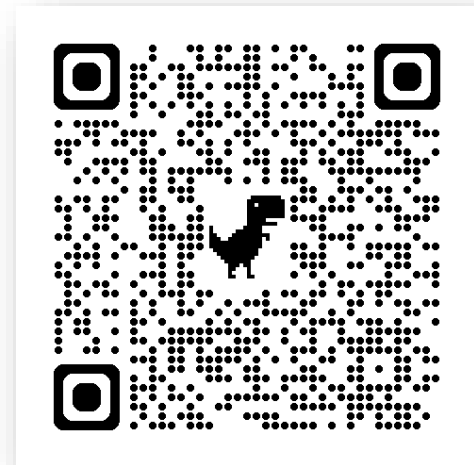
(1) The Legislature places a high priority on promoting the full inclusion and independence of individuals with developmental disabilities, including through opportunities for recreation, consistent with Section 4501 and paragraphs (6) and (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 4502.

(2) As such, it is the intent of the Legislature for social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music, to be among the services and supports within the meaning of subdivision (b) of Section 4512 and be made widely available to consumers, not only for socialization, but to lead the lives that they want in the community. It is further the intent of the Legislature that regional centers, when developing purchase-of-service policies and related procedures, and that the department, when reviewing regional center purchase-of-service policies and related procedures, reduce administrative barriers to the utilization of these services by consumers to the fullest possible extent.

(b) The regional centers shall use the following principles when purchasing social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies:

(1) Consumers shall receive services and supports in settings that are typical of those in which persons without disabilities engage in social recreation, camping, or nonmedical therapies.

[Link WIC 4688.22](#)



The benefits of social recreation Services for individuals with developmental disabilities

- Social Skills Development
- Create diverse circles of Friendships
- Sense of Belonging
- Improve Physical and Mental Health
- Enhanced Self Esteem
- Physical Activity Benefits
- Cognitive Stimulation
- Expand on the circles of support

How to identify Soc/Rec needs for individuals served?

- Inquire about the area of interest, abilities, preferred social settings, desired level of interaction, communication methods, & accessibility needs. You can obtain this information from the individual served, family, care giver, or support staff.
- Explore the individual's preference by asking what activities do they enjoy doing in their leisure time.
- Review if the individual prefers individual or group activities.
- What type of social interactions do they seek? casual, structured, or competitive
- Any concerns about physical abilities and inquire if adaptive equipment is required for participation
- Explore about the individuals comfort level with interacting with others and if support is necessary in initiating a conversation or maintaining a relationship.
- Does the individual want to participate in activities within their local community? Or have something else in mind
- Are there accessible community programs or organizations that could be a good fit?



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Thank you for joining the social recreational training
on understanding the new amended California law
on social recreation services.