



# North Bay Regional Center

## Board Opportunity Fund Request

**Approved unanimously by the BOD Executive Committee on February 29, 2024.**

**(Pérez, White, Bednarova, Speck)**

Date: 2/29/24
Individual Name: RW
County of Residence: Sonoma
Type of Request: Rental assistance

### Summary

Include diagnosis, detailed circumstances and why the funds are needed. Please also include an itemized list of costs (approximate).

### Summary

RW is a 35-year-old man eligible for Regional Center Services based upon a diagnosis of Autism. He is verbal and ambulatory and lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Petaluma. In November 2019, he obtained the apartment with a section 8 housing voucher and pays \$1,094 per month for rent, including water and sewer.

Though he has made an effort to maintain full-time work, he has been unable to do so due to his disability. RW had been working a full-time night shift stocking position at SF and had advocated to change to part-time work but was denied. In the meantime, he secured a new position at another place of employment. Unfortunately, RW was not successful in this position, and he was fired. He has a history of lacking workplace communication skills, especially when speaking with supervisors and with accepting constructive criticism. RW and his team agree that he would benefit from UCP increasing onsite job coaching and that his job coach be present to support him in communicating effectively with supervisors. The team also agrees that RW would benefit from additional workplace communication training.

RW is in the process of reapplying for SSI/SSDI after he was denied due to his earned income. He is currently being supported by Liberty ILS which is helping appeal this decision. His SC has requested a copy of his denial letters to share with NBRC Generic Resource Coordinator for further support with the appeal and application process. RW has a section 8 voucher for his apartment and pays a percentage-based rent. Because he had been working full-time his rent has increased and is now \$1,094 per month. His Liberty ILS provider is also supporting him with informing his housing authority of his change in income in the hopes of reducing his monthly rent.



Attempted solutions:

- RW's mother has provided him with extensive financial support in the past, but recently had to separate her bank account from his due to excessive overdraft fees.
- RW is being supported by his ILS staff to secure a bank account that works better for him, exploring daily limit options and no overdraft fees. They are also creating a financial budget.

Because he does not have any income and no means to pay his rent, he is at risk of homelessness and losing his apartment and section 8 voucher. His SC is requesting board funds to cover two months rent, March and April 2024. This funding will give time to find part-time work, reapply for SSI benefits, establish more functional banking and budgeting systems, and to work toward adjusting his rent subsidy amount.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED: \$2,189.62

\*This request is a loan and if approved, the individual will be complete an agreement to re-pay the loan.