

Social Recreational Services

Service Coordinator Training 2025



North Bay
Regional Center



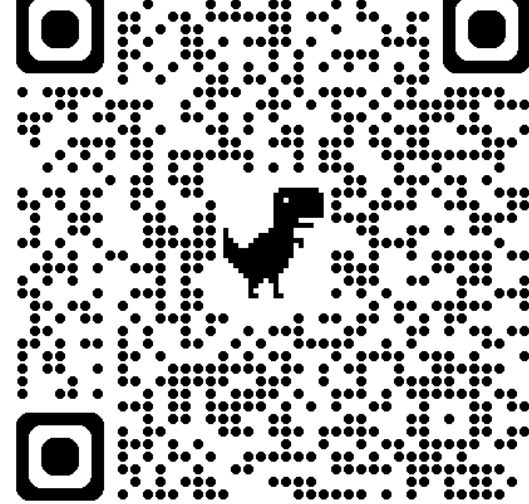
Social/Recreational, camping, non-medical therapies regulation

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4688.22 restores regional center authority to fund camping services (and associated travel expenses); social recreation activities; and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music. In 2023, there was additional language that furthered clarified regional centers had to ensure equal access and opportunity to those facing barriers and that regional centers could not ask individuals or parents for co-pays and/or trade social recreational services for other services (example authorize social rec services in exchange for less respite hours).

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.

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.

NBRC Policy

- North Bay Regional Center supports active and integrated for all participants, both children and adults. Social Recreational opportunities can help individuals achieve IPP goals while facilitating community integration and inclusion. For those individuals with developmental disabilities, inclusive, community based activities that promote socialization, mental and physical well-being, are important to fostering acceptance and integration in a person's local community.

*Approved by NBRC Board of Directors on 5/1/24; Approved by DDS on 6/4/24

Eligibility

- All “status 2” individuals eligible to receive services from North Bay Regional Center. Including those who are provisionally eligible.
- Requested services must be included in the Individual Program Plan and relate to an identified goal and/or eligibility diagnosis.
- When possible, requested services shall be integrated or lead to integration or inclusion in activities that are attended by people of all abilities and backgrounds.
- All other generic resources, including parental responsibility (for minor children, under the age of 18), natural supports and other sources will be pursued on an on-going basis but will not delay access to the service through the regional center funding.

Exemptions:

The Executive Director or identified designee will review and may grant any exemptions to this policy based on individual, extraordinary circumstances. If an individual or their legal representative disagrees with the decision made regarding services related to this policy, they may seek appeal as described in Welfare and Institutions Code 4710, et al.

Questions to ask

- 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.
- Talk about individual preferences to participate in individual or group activities.
- Does the person needs outside support to access and/or participate in the desired activity?

How are social recreational services funded?

- Mostly through parental reimbursement. This requires paperwork to be completed by the parent prior to regional center authorizing payment for any social recreational activities.

****NEW****

- Payment Flexibility Through Participant-Directed Services using an FMS or Financial Management Service.
- Allows more providers to accept payment via fiscal management services (FMS).
- Easier for regional centers to pay upfront, reducing out-of-pocket costs.

FAQ's

- You must discuss social recreational services at every IPP meeting.
- Regional centers can pay for swim lessons, even for children who are very young.
- Once identified, the SC will discuss the requests with their supervisor and associate director.
- Regional Centers do not fund “entertainment” activities such as trips to amusement parks or concerts.
- Educational services has been removed from the regulation so if there is a service in place now, it must be reviewed and determined if an NOA is needed.

Questions?

