

POS Restored Services Policy Update 4-2024

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4648.5 restored regional center authority to fund social recreation services, camping and associated travel expenses, nonmedical therapies, and educational services. Further definition for the social recreation program can be found in WIC Section 4688.22

Social recreation can be purchased through vendored services, parent reimbursement and the Participant Directed form of service or through a Financial Management Service (FMS) for a client related sporting or recreational activity that is social in nature. The use of the FMS program allows clients to participate in activities that may not be vendored and be reimbursed for payments made on behalf of the client. Clients can request reimbursement of social recreational activities through parent reimbursement models, as determined by the planning team process. The FMS can be utilized to not only fund social recreation, but also camp and non-medical therapies.

There are several sporting and recreational activities that are vendored by the Inland Regional Center (IRC). In these instances where the activity is vendored, there is no need for client reimbursement, as IRC will fund the program directly. Clients can request these opportunities through the planning team process.

The overall intent of social recreation is to increase our client's access to integrated social activities in their various communities. Examples include art, singing, music, karate, swimming lessons, gym, karate etc. Entertainment such as casinos, tickets to a sporting event and amusement/theme parks are unallowable.

A socialization program is for clients that may require a vendored facilitator to assist and accompany them on social recreational outings. Socialization programs will provide in-the-moment coaching and facilitation to promote inclusion and skill development. Activities should enhance and develop meaningful interpersonal relationships and integration opportunities by accessing public recreation and leisure facilities. It is for clients that may have behaviors or social skill needs and has social training components built into the individual service plan. The Socialization Training Program is intended to provide socialization recreational opportunities to consumers in conjunction with structured socialization and behavioral goals.

The Planning Team will determine the needs and supports to secure access to the community and recreational activities. The Planning Team will also review the service(s) yearly to determine if any changes are needed to continue to assist the client in having supportive access to the community and recreational activities. IRC will not offset the cost of an outing or service through a stipend or a shared payment arrangement.

The regional center may purchase camp activities and associated travel expenses to support the Individual Program Plan (IPP). An IPP can be requested by contacting your Service Coordinator. Camp may be provided in an outdoor or natural setting, with an emphasis on social skills building. If a portion of the camp is provided in an indoor setting, the setting must be integrated (example: community recreation center, YMCA, etc.).

Camp will be classified as either residential (client stays the night) or day camp (client goes home every day). Regional Center will purchase camp as identified in the IPP. Travel expenses associated with a

family member getting the client to and from the camp site will be allowable through an FMS, as determined by the planning team.

The regional center may purchase non-medical specialized recreational therapies and training for clients and their families to support the Individual Program Plan (IPP). Programs must be designed to increase and improve a client's interpersonal and social skill level. If a program is vendor, then it must maintain a current credential or licensed as required to practice in the field of therapy offered (defined as Specialized Recreational Therapy, Service Code 106, California Code of Regulations, Title 17). If a provider is not vendored with the regional center, a Financial Management Service (FMS) can be utilized to pay for the service.

Vendors and/or non-vendored providers should provide the service in an integrated community setting, as much as possible. Examples of nonmedical therapies can include but are not limited to dance and equestrian therapy.

Educational Services for children three to 17 may be funded when the need has been identified in the IPP and the following conditions have been met:

1. The service is not available through the educational system and/or school district.
2. All generic resources have been exhausted.

Educational Advocacy may be accessed once the Consumer Services Coordinator (CSC) has attempted to resolve any grievances and/or disputes with the consumer's School District in supporting parents in advocating through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. The purpose of this service is to provide the consumer with enhanced advocacy during mediation and/or appeal.

Educational services can also be provided to assist the consumer with tutoring needs and provided in the family home either face to face or through a remote platform. The intent of tutoring is to ensure that the consumer can manage their scholastic needs and is provided in their needed language.

Exceptions made to all purchases of service must be identified by the Interdisciplinary Team and documented in the client's Individual Program Plan. If there is any disagreement about services that cannot be resolved by the planning team, written notice of fair hearing rights will be provided. (WIC §§ 4646(i) and 4710.5(a)).