

The following are questions were asked by attendees of the Restoration of Social Recreation Services Webinar held on April 14, 2022.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q. What are social recreation services?

A. Social recreation services are tailored to provide socialization and recreational opportunities to the individuals receiving services from a California regional center. The activities and goals are person-centered, meaning they will be based on the individual's strengths and needs discussed with their service coordinator.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for nonprofits hoping to get their social recreation programs off the ground before March 2023?

A. Regional centers are requesting that individuals or companies interested in providing social recreation services contact the regional center's community services division as soon as possible.

Q. Whom do we contact at our local regional center to begin the vendorization process?

A. If you're interested in providing social recreation services, please contact your regional center's community services division. The main number for each regional center can be found [here](#).

Q. Are summer camps included in social recreation vendorization?

A. Camps are similar to social recreation vendorizations. One key difference is that camps that set-up to only provide services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) may not be a fully inclusive environment and therefore not compliant with the federal Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule. This rule requires services be fully integrated by March 2023 in order to qualify for federal funding. California has not yet made a policy decision about whether regional centers may fund non-compliant programs after that time, but it is important to note that approximately 40% of all funding for services is from the federal government.

Q. Our agency is interested in offering these services. What are the first steps required for us? Do we begin to prepare a letter of interest?

A. Regional centers are requesting that individuals or companies interested in providing social recreation services contact the regional center's community services division as soon as possible.

Q. If our regional center does not have a request for proposal for social recreation activities, can we still submit?

A. Yes, please contact your local regional center's community services division.

TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS

Q. What timeline can we expect for vendorization process and where can we find resources specific for social recreation development?

A. Regulations allow for 45 days, once all documents are submitted to vendor an entity/individual. Regional centers have expressed a desire to fast-track the process of social recreation vendorizations. The timeframes are dependent on applicants providing the requested documentation in a timely manner. If delays occur in your vendorization process, please reach out to the management at your local regional center's community services division.

Q. Will the programs that are held at agency places of business require Community Care Licensing if it is a drop off program?

A. No. But if you provide care and supervision, such as assistance with toileting or dispensing of medication at your office, you must have a license from the Department of Social Services.

Q. Regional centers fund the participants they serve. Who funds the typical peers to attend the programs that will be offered?

A. Individuals not served by a regional center and/or their families would likely fund their participation in social recreation activities.

Q. How do recreational therapy services relate to this new opportunity for funding?

A. Recreation Therapists may run social recreation programs. Regional centers can fund recreation therapy through service code 694.

Q. We offer sports programs to individuals with developmental disabilities. We debated opening it up to general population, but opted against it to allow participants to participate on their own terms without comparison. We would love to be more inclusive but are hesitant for this reason. How does this impact the potential for vendorization?

A. Please contact your local regional center's community services division.

Q. For a potential vendor interested in contracting to serve only one individual, what is necessary?

A. Please contact your local regional center's community services division to discuss options.

Q. What are the rules for vendors working with subcontractors or other community partners?

A. Regional centers follow regulations outlined in the California Code of Regulations Title 17. The utilization of subcontractors is described in [Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 17, §50607\(j\)](#). The regulation prohibits the subcontracting of services “except for contracts for transportation services or community-based day program services.” For information about specific vendored programs and how they function, please reach out to the community services division at your regional center.

Q. Would horseback riding/therapy fall under the umbrella of social recreation?

A. Horseback riding therapy would fall under the regional center funding category of non-medical therapy. Authorization to fund this service was also restored on July 1, 2021.

Q. We have regional center adult service recipients who want to be part of what we are doing with our community-based social recreation programs but many already attend a day program. Will those individuals be able to also access social recreation services?

A. If someone is interested in receiving social recreation services, please have them contact their service coordinator to discuss specifics. Oftentimes, social recreation services can be scheduled to occur at best time for the individual.

Q. What service code would social recreation services fall under and what are the program design requirements be for them? Does the program need to be inclusive to be vendored or can services offered be specifically for individuals with disabilities?

A. Service codes may vary due to the type of service being proposed. Please contact your local regional center’s community services division to express your interest and inquire about your specific proposal. As of March 2023, in order for California to receive federal reimbursement for services, the program must be inclusive of the broader community of individuals not receiving services for people with developmental disabilities.

Q. Is there an upper limit for the rate for social recreation programs through usual and customary rates?

A. If a social recreation program is vendored as usual and customary, meaning that at least 30% of program participants are not people served by the regional center, the rate may change as the company increases their rate for the general public using the service.

Q. Are volunteers and staff included in the 30% determination for usual and customary services?

A. The 30% references only a provider’s client base. Services providers that have usual and customary rates must maintain a 30% ratio of service recipients that are not regional center clients or their families.

Q. Will rates be adjustable?

A. If a social recreation program is not vendored as usual and customary (see above questions), rates set by regional centers are only available for increases at the direction of the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and are subject to upper limits. DDS has extensive information about vendorization and rates at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor->

[provider/](#) For specific information about rates, please contact the community services division at your local regional center.

Q. What type of insurances (general liability, professional liability) will be required by regional centers for vendorization?

A. This may vary based on the type of service being proposed. Please contact your regional center's community services division for specific support in this area.

Q. What setting and/or inclusion requirements will regional centers impose on an event for it to qualify for funding? For example, if a provider provides a camp opportunity or a social recreation event, but it is specifically for individuals with disabilities, can the regional center fund that or does it have to be an event hosted and designed for the general public for it to qualify for funding?

A. Camps are similar to social recreation vendorizations. One key difference is that camps, as a one-time service, may not be a fully inclusive environment and therefore may not qualify for federal reimbursement as of March 2023. Please contact your regional center's community services division for specific support in this area.

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE SERVED BY REGIONAL CENTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Q. Will social recreation services be available to Early Start families?

A. Social recreation services are not an available service under Early Start because Early Start services are limited to only those identified as required by the federal government. Social recreation services are not included in this list.

Q. Will transportation be provided by the regional centers for the individuals to attend the social rec activity?

A. Transportation services are provided to service recipients based on the needs of the individual as stated in the Individual Program Plan (IPP).

Q. How will the regional center determine family or individual responsibility for a portion of expenses for accessing a social recreational opportunity?

A. A number of factors impact this. Regional centers will make determination of individual or family financial responsibility through the planning team process and in line with both laws in this area and their Purchase of Service policies.

Q. Will each regional center put together a fluid list of providers with specifics on what services, age group, etc. they will offer to make it easier for individuals and families to engage?

A. Each regional center has developed an outreach plan in order to increase community awareness of social recreation opportunities. Please contact your regional center service coordinator for specific information on services in your area.

Q. Do you have a list of socialization/recreation programs for people with certain diagnoses in inclusive settings vended by regional centers in specific geographic areas?

A. If you're a person that receives regional center services please contact your service coordinator at your regional center. Otherwise, for service provider information, please contact the community services division.

Please click on the link below for a listing of the contact information for each regional center. If you have questions related to vendorization, please contact your regional center and request to be connected to the community services division.

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/listings/>