



San Gabriel / Pomona
Regional Center

“Service, Support, and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families”

Social Recreation/Camp & Non-Medical Therapies Policy

Definition

Social Recreation/Camp and Non-Medical Therapies are services and supports for individuals served by the regional center that provide integrated participation within community settings. They are intended to develop an individual’s social skills, create social connections, and enhance physical health.

Effective July 1, 2021 social recreation services were restored per Welfare & Institutions Code section 4519.5(a) and 4688.22 which are described as follows: Social Recreational/Camp and Non-Medical Therapies may include, but are not limited to: swimming, gymnastics, sports club, dance classes, martial arts, creative arts, music therapy, art therapy, equestrian therapy, day camp, overnight camp, or community integration activities, as well as educational services for children three to 17, inclusive, years of age. SG/PRC may fund camping services and associated travel expenses that are delivered within the boundaries of the State of California.

SG/PRC will utilize a Person-Centered approach to identify services, activities, natural supports, and available resources for the individual served to ensure fulfillment of SG/PRC’s obligation to secure the most cost-effective service delivery option.

Philosophy and Purpose

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC) encourages access to social/recreation activities; including camp and non-medical therapies (music, art, and equestrian therapy) for children and adults with developmental disabilities because these activities can improve their confidence, encourage independence, foster mental wellness, help them retain emotional stability, increase physical health, establish friendships, expand circles of support, and create diverse circles of friends that include persons with and without disabilities.

The purpose of social recreation/camp and non-medical therapies is to meet the unique service needs of the individual served within the context of objectives and long-range goals described in the Individual Program Plan (IPP). Goals on the IPP are person-centered and guided through the planning team assessment process. These services and supports are essential bridges for encouraging the inclusion of individuals served within all aspects of community living. *Please contact your Service Coordinator to discuss and explore social recreational activities for your family member.*

SG/PRC’s funding decisions regarding social recreation/camp and non-medical therapies are guided through person-centered choice and decision making within the IPP process. SG/PRC will fund services and supports that ensure optimal participation within integrated community settings.

Individuals served often experience a variety of barriers to participation in community social recreation. Environmental, physical, person-related, and task related barriers may require additional supports such as adapted equipment, individualized support, development of professional competence in working with individuals served, and supportive equipment for activities selected. Community social recreational programs can be highly successful when elements of the environment, individual, and tasks are all supported. SG/PRC is committed to alleviating barriers to access of social recreation services and may fund additional services and supports to secure access and equity for individuals served.

As an ongoing practice, SG/PRC will encourage publicly and privately funded socialization, leisure, and recreational programs, camps, and non-medical therapy service providers to reimagine, modify, and refine their service delivery models ensuring that people with developmental disabilities are fully included.

Funding Criteria

Individuals served may be actively participating in social/recreation activities, camps, and non-medical therapies through private funding, community programs, churches, schools, day programs, and residential services, however SG/PRC recognizes that there may be limited access for social/recreation activities and opportunities for individuals served in their community and/or residential setting.

The social and recreational benefit of each activity or service specified within the IPP shall also be considered when planning and purchasing such services. In some cases, an individual may need services to develop a particular skill to join or participate in a social recreational program. An example is learning to swim to later participate in water sports or pool parties with friends and family. SG/PRC will consider funding additional supports to encourage service equity and access to social recreation, camp, and non-medical therapies.

SG/PRC may purchase social recreation/camp and non-medical therapy services when the following criteria are met:

- The Planning Team has identified and documented a social skill need(s).
- The Planning Team has identified a social recreation activity that will support the life of the individual served.
- Social Recreation/Camp and Non-Medical Therapy services are not currently funded through a generic resource.
- The Planning Team has identified a support needed to increase access to a desired activity.

Service Amount and Frequency

- Funding for social recreation activity, service, program, or non-medical therapy may be purchased as determined through Planning Team and if applicable, assessments and recommendations since some programs may require an assessment where recommendations are provided.

- Frequency and duration of services will be determined through the planning team planning process utilizing a Person-Centered approach as well as consideration of recommendations from assessments, where applicable.
- The frequency/duration of services should not interfere with the time that families spend together engaging in social recreation activities.
- Parents may contact their Service Coordinator to discuss any change in needs or increase in hours for social recreation activities.

Planning Team Considerations

- SG/PRC recognizes that adults served are typically on a fixed income. For this reason, SG/PRC will not require adults that are eligible for social recreation services/camp or non-medical therapies to pay for these services.
- If an Individual Served requires additional experience and practice to benefit from the service due to their disability, SG/PRC may consider funding supplemental services and supports, thereby encouraging access to the social recreation activity.

Evaluation of Progress

- In accordance with the Individual Program Plan, services will be reviewed at regular intervals to monitor progress and ensure effectiveness of service.

Funding

SG/PRC may fund for social recreation services and educational services through vendored service providers, by way of purchase reimbursement or through the use of Participant-Directed Services which utilizes a financial management service provider if the social recreation provider is not vendored through the regional center and the provider's service is predominantly delivered to individuals who do not receive regional center services. For more information, please contact your service coordinator who will explain these options.

Exceptions and Appeal Process

The SG/PRC Executive Director or designee may grant an exemption to this policy as warranted under extraordinary unique individual circumstances. Accordingly, if an individual served or their legal representative disagrees with services offered through implementation of this policy, they retain the right to appeal the Planning Team's and the Executive Director's (or designee's) decision as described within Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4710 et al.