

# VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER SERVICE STANDARD

## SOCIAL/RECREATION and CAMP SERVICES

### Philosophy and Purpose

It is the philosophy of VMRC that people with developmental disabilities have access to age appropriate social/recreational activities, including camping services and associated travel expenses. VMRC believes that such activities are an important and necessary part of all people's lives. These activities help to ensure a person's emotional well-being, promote, and develop friendships, and enhance social skills. As such, VMRC will promote the participation of people with developmental disabilities in meaningful, preferred social/recreational activities.

The purpose of social/recreation services is to meet the person's need for socialization and access to recreational activities. VMRC is aware that people with developmental disabilities are often socially isolated and may not have opportunities for social interaction and recreation with a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, including people without disabilities.

### Definition

Social/recreation services include those supports and services that allow the person to socialize with friends and spend structured or unstructured time engaged in recreational activities. Emphasis will be on activities in settings that promote community inclusion and engagement. Typically, people access and participate in social/recreational activities through their families, residential services, schools, or day programs.

Benefits of social / recreational activities in –

- Children – promote social growth and development.
- Adults – prevent isolation, encourage development of social skills, learn social boundaries; form long-lasting relationships; promote community engagement.

### Eligibility

The Planning Team, as defined in W&I Code 4512 (j), which includes the person served, reviews the need for socialization and for recreation and develops a statement of goals based upon the needs, preferences, and life choices of the person. The Team considers several factors that support or inhibit the achievement of the person's goals (e.g., the people's own abilities, family, friends, residential care facility, and community resources). Use of generic resources should be exhausted, and the cost effectiveness of the requested service considered, per W&I Code 4512. Per W&I Code 4646.4(a)(4)

the Team will consider the family's responsibility for providing similar services and supports for a minor child without disabilities in identifying the consumer's service and support needs as provided in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting. The Team shall take into account the consumer's need for extraordinary care, services, supports and supervision, and the need for timely access to this care.

Family cost participation is also considered when funding specific services as outlined below. Title 17 CCR 50243 et seq Family Cost Participation

The Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP) is established for the purpose of assessing a cost participation to parents of children who receive three specific regional center services: day care, respite, and/or camping. The Family Cost Participation Program is being implemented by the 21 [regional centers](#) statewide and applies to families who meet the following criteria:

1. The child has a developmental disability or is eligible for services under the California Early Intervention Services Act.
2. The child is zero through 17 years of age.
3. The child lives in the parents' home.
4. The child is not eligible for Medi-Cal.

("Planning team" means the individual with developmental disabilities, the parents or legally appointed guardian of a minor consumer or the legally appointed conservator of an adult consumer, the authorized representative, including those appointed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4541, one or more regional center representatives, including the designated regional center service coordinator pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 4640.7, any individual, including a service provider, invited by the consumer, the parents or legally appointed guardian of a minor consumer or the legally appointed conservator of an adult consumer, or the authorized representative, including those appointed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4541, and including a minor's, dependent's, or ward's court-appointed developmental services decisionmaker appointed pursuant to Section 319, 361, or 726.)

Eligible –

- People who live with family or independently, who do not attend day program;  
OR,
- People who live with family or independently, who attend day programs, but do not have social/recreation as part of their ISP (Individual Service Plan). Example – persons who are in day programs for vocational/employment training.

Expanded Planning Team considerations –

- People who live in licensed care homes, FHA (Family Home Agency), ICF (Intermediate Care Facility), SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility), where the Service Provider is responsible for providing social/recreational activities.
- People who attend day program where social/recreation is included in their ISP.
- People who can access social recreational activities through natural or generic supports, i.e., church groups, school, youth centers, etc. Natural supports and generic resources are described in W&I Code 4512.

- The team will consider all relevant circumstances and whether the requested service is necessary to support the person to remain living in their family home, W&I Code 4685.

### **Implementation:**

It is VMRC's intent to advocate and supply information to people, their family members, and service provider on social/recreational activities. This can be achieved by providing supports and services targeted to the unique needs of each person, as identified by the planning team.

### **Exceptions and Appeals Process**

As with all VMRC purchased services, if the Planning Team determines there is a need to request an exception to these standards, a Purchase of Service (POS) Exceptions request should be submitted. Please refer to the [POS Exceptions Policy](#).

VMRC recognizes that there may be occasions when a decision is made by VMRC that may not satisfy the person or his/her legally authorized representative. When the person or his/her legally authorized representative believes a VMRC decision is illegal, discriminatory, or not in the person's best interest, an appeal can be made to challenge that decision. All processes shall be in compliance with W&I Code, Section 4700-4730.

(Social/recreation standard – Approved DDS 08-31-2022)