



## **Updated Camping, Social Recreation and Other Services Outreach Plan**

As required per October 7, 2021 correspondence from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS,) the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC) has developed this outreach plan to facilitate awareness of the availability of camping, social recreation and other services as outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4648.5 as of July 1, 2021. This outreach plan also meets the requirements of the August 16, 2023 DDS correspondence regarding the importance of developing, and implementing outreach plans with the entities awarded social recreational grant contracts by DDS.

### **Purchase of Service (POS) Guidelines**

Submitted to DDS in late 2021, and approved by DDS as of January, 2023, ELARC's Purchase of Service (POS) Guidelines for the restored services are posted on the POS Guidelines page of the ELARC website and made available in languages other than English.

### **Outreach to Community**

ELARC initially partnered with our family run Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to host community information sessions in English, Spanish, and with interpretation into other non-English languages to review and discuss the restoration of these services, their availability, as well as how to access such services. Individuals we serve, their families, as well as service providers and community partners attended these information sessions. The sessions were publicized via the ELARC website and social media as well as via our CBO partners. We continue ensure that our public meetings include some information as to the restoration of these services.

### **Outreach to Individuals and Families**

ELARC has developed fact sheets outlining the restoration and availability of camping, social recreation and other services. The fact sheet has been translated into ELARC's community threshold languages. The fact sheet has been posted on ELARC's website and social media as well as printed and posted in our lobbies. It will be included in the Individual Program Plan (IPP) packet provided and reviewed at the time of the IPP.

Information regarding the restoration and availability of these services along with a review of the fact sheet continues to be a point of discussion at Consumer Advisory Committee meetings.

### **Informing Service Coordinators**

The fact sheet has been posted on the staff intranet to inform staff of the changes, along with the original October 7, 2021 correspondence and the final POS Guidelines. Management staff continue to review the changes and the documents in their unit meetings with Service Coordinators. Service Coordinators will integrate a review of the changes in access to these services into their planning meetings with individuals and families.

### **Service Providers**



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Vendored Service Providers continue to be updated as to the restoration of funding for these services via the ELARC Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meetings and targeted correspondence. Outreach to community based providers as well as providers who provided such services prior to 2009 has expanded the pool of providers interested in development and has contributed to the expansion of integrated camping and social recreational services.

City, county, private, and community based organizations have been vendored by ELARC and other Regional Centers and such resources are shared amongst the neighboring Regional Centers. In order to allow for flexibility and to expedite and/or streamline funding for such services, ELARC has used the agency credit card, a Fiscal Management agency, paid up front fees, and set up reimbursement to fund such services.

### **Enhanced Community Integration (Social Recreation) Grant Programs**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 provided DDS \$12.5 million for social recreation grants. DDS has informed regional centers of approved grant projects and grant projects have launched. [Read a complete list of the awardees here](#). Five organizations were initially awarded grants to serve the ELARC area with two others expanding into our community.

ELARC held a virtual “Meet and Greet” on May 24, 2023 where individuals served and families, as well as ELARC Service Coordinators, could hear presentations on the services available immediately at no cost and with no need for authorization. Well attended, the event complemented the launch of ELARC’s revamped Social Recreational Resources Page which includes updated informational materials.

Also, ELARC has assigned a Community Services liaison to each grantee. Meetings are being held monthly with grantees for support and do address continuous community engagement and information dissemination. Specialists, including but not limited to the Consumer Advocate, Deaf and HOH Specialist, Information and Training Specialist, Cultural Specialist, and Autism Specialist play a role in promoting the activities and serve as connectors for the grantees and any targeted populations. The Family Resource Center and other key Community Based Organizations can be enlisted to support informational outreach efforts. ELARC also supports grantee efforts to ensure promotional material is in understandable formats. ELARC website, e-news, and social media are made available to grantees to promote their programs.

### **Tracking Resources**

ELARC has undertaken an extensive review of existing resources to ensure that they are categorized correctly for tracking purposes. Nearly complete, once we are able to accurately track the resources it will allow for the development and maintenance of a resource guide for potential use by our staff and community.

Inquiries regarding this Outreach Plan may be directed to Edith Hernandez-Daniels, ELARC Chief of Consumer Services, at [ehernandez@elarc.org](mailto:ehernandez@elarc.org)