



## **PURCHASE OF SERVICE GUIDELINE**

3/12/2024	SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES/CAMP SERVICES/ EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN 3-17, AND NON-MEDICAL THERAPIES	FINAL
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### **I. DEFINITION**

**Social Recreational Activities** are defined as opportunities which provide the individual the means to develop and enhance personal enjoyment, social interaction, social skills development, leisure, participation in family and group activities in the home, recreational settings and in the community. Such activities may be provided by public/private agencies/organizations (parks, churches, Girl Scouts of America, Boy Scouts of America, schools), circles of support, vendored agencies, or other resources.

**Camping services** are defined as providing a creative experience in outdoor living for a limited period of hours per day and days per year. Camping services are to contribute to the individual’s mental, physical and social growth by using resources of the natural surroundings.

Residential Camp is defined as a providing a creating experience in outdoor living on a 24 hour per day basis for a limited time period. This service uses the resources of the natural surroundings to contribute to the individual’s mental, physical and social growth. A Residential Camp must possess a valid fire clearance issued by the California State Fire Marshal, City Fire Department or local fire district. The Residential Camp must also be in compliance with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and making public accommodations.

**Educational Services** are defined as educational related services and supports, not available through the educational system and/or school district, as identified in the person’s Individual Program Plan. Local education agencies provide special education and related services to children with disabilities in environments including the home, school, public or private preschools or child care settings. Section 4648.55 was amended to provide an additional exemption to the provision that regional centers may not purchase day program, vocational education, work services, independent living program, or mobility training and related transportation services for a person who is 18 to 22 years of age, inclusive, if that individual is eligible for special education and related education services and has not received a diploma or certificate of completion. An exemption may be granted on an individual basis in extraordinary circumstances to permit purchase of services only when the regional center determines that the service is a primary or critical means to ameliorate the physical, cognitive or psychosocial effects of the individual’s developmental disability, or the service is necessary to enable the individual to remain in his or her home and no alternative service is available to meet the individual’s needs. WIC section 4648.5, subd. (c).

**Non-Medical Therapies** are defined as evidenced based treatments that accomplish goals and objectives related to the individual’s developmental disability to promote wellness, physical rehabilitation, manage behavior, challenges and/or enhance expression and communication. Such activities may be provided by public/private agencies/organizations (parks, churches, schools), circles of support, vendored agencies, or other resources. Activities can include but are not limited

to specialized art therapy, dance therapy, music therapy.

## **II. CRITERIA**

In compliance with WIC 4688.22, ELARC shall prioritize the access and opportunities of social recreational services and camping services, particularly for children, individuals who are non-English speaking and communities of color. Additionally, priority shall be made to funding support services (i.e. one-to-one aide, transportation etc.) that assist with the access of those opportunities.

The following criteria must be met when requesting the purchase of these services.

The setting (or place where they receive those services) must be assessed to make sure it is in compliance with Ca Code of regulations, Title 17 Section 54342 (a)(15) the HCBS Final Rule before the individual can start their service there.

If a residential camp is deemed appropriate for the individual by the IPP Planning team, verification shall be done that The ability to participate does not compromise the individual's health and safety and that the selected residential camp is vendored for the current fiscal year, has current fire health department clearances (when applicable) and must meet the accessibility needs of the consumer per Ca Code of regulations, Title 17 Section 54342 (a)(15).

If the individual/ family desires a residential camp that is not vendored by the regional center; and, service provider's serves the general public, the regional center may fund the residential camp as Participant Directed Services using a Financial Management Services (FMS). Payments shall be made to the FMS using service code 459, and service codes 490 or 491 for coordination of these payments.

## **III. AMOUNT OF SERVICE**

ELARC may fund a social recreational activity camp/educational service for children 3-17 or non-medical therapies taking into account cost-effectiveness and the consideration of generic community services that may meet the need. Services shall not be duplicative of other services that serve the same purpose.

## **IV. ALTERNATIVE FUNDING RESOURCES**

ELARC recognizes that socialization, leisure, and recreation activities are valuable and will support efforts to remove barriers and to facilitate full participation, along with other citizens, in a broad range of such community opportunities. In doing so we will pursue the goal of services to persons with developmental disabilities in the most inclusive setting and with the maximum possible participation in typical socialization, leisure and recreational settings in the community. In communities where such opportunities are not available to persons with developmental disabilities, ELARC will encourage publicly and privately funded socialization, leisure, and

recreational programs to adapt their services in order to accommodate individuals served.

Should the individual and/or family desire to utilize camp beyond what the planning team has found to meet the consumer's needs, the consumer or responsible party may privately purchase additional days of service from the provider. Camperships may also be requested by the individual or responsible party from the provider /agency.

Generic services and natural supports shall be explored. Camps which other members of the general public utilize (such as YMCA) should also be considered.

## **V. PROCESS FOR PURCHASE OF SERVICE**

Upon request and decision of the planning team, the service coordinator shall assist the family/consumer to explore all generic community resources.

These services should be discussed during the Individual Program Plan Meeting, and documented in the IPP or the IPP Addendum. The individual's choice, setting and HCBS compliancy will need to be taken into consideration at all times.

If agreement cannot be reached in part or in its entirety by the IPP Planning Team, then the individual and/or family has a right to appeal the decision made by ELARC as specified in the Lanterman Appeal Process. For information in the Appeal Process: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/appeals-complaints-comments>

The service coordinator will complete the Automated POS Authorization for review, signature and approval of the CSD supervisor.

ELARC fiscal/administration processes the automated POS authorization request.

The service coordinator confirms the start date with the family/consumer and service provider.

Should the social recreational activity/camp/educational services for children 3-17 or non/medical therapies require a deposit as part of the registration process, the authorization process will include the deposit as part of the approved vendor rate.

To increase service access, ELARC may pay in advance for restored services to align with typical processes used by non-regional center service providers under certain circumstances.

In compliance with WIC 4688.22, ELARC will make every effort to increase the availability of service providers and streamline the vendorization process.

A Community Outreach plan shall be developed and updated to inform individuals, families, service providers and the community about the statutory changes related to the restored services (See ELARC Restored Services Outreach Plan).

ELARC shall consider creative means to fund for social recreational services, non-medical therapies and camping services, which include but limited to Participant Directed Services through the use of a Financial Management System.

ELARC shall add an SRA Sub-code to all restored services to assist with collecting and tracking service expenditures. If a service is utilized to meet the social recreational/ camping/ non-medical therapies need is not identified with an SRA Sub-code, then the service coordinator, shall notify the Community Services Department to ensure the coding is applied to the service.

If applicable, the service coordinator will assess the consumer for the Family Cost Participation Program as defined in WIC 4783.

## **VI. EVALUATION OF SERVICE EFFECTIVENESS**

Social recreational activities/camp/educational services and non- medical therapies shall be reviewed and re-evaluated periodically for effectiveness to determine if objectives have been met, to report progress, if applicable and to ensure appropriateness of activity which shall be documented in the individual's IPP, the IPP Addendum or ISP.