



Harbor Regional Center Service Policy **SUPPORTED LIVING**

DEFINITION:

Supported Living Services (SLS) assist people with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities to live in their own home, participate in activities that interest them and build relationships with those they choose. Supported living services may change over time and are provided based upon individual needs for as long as needed. Underlying the concept of supported living are the principles of self-determination and person-centered planning wherein people with disabilities make their own choices about how they live their lives. The primary purpose of supported living is to give people the help they need to become as independent as possible and to achieve the outcomes they choose for themselves. Individual choice guides supported living services as long as these choices do not pose a threat to health or safety. Supported living services are more fully described in Welfare & Institutions Code §4689 and have the following characteristics:

1. People choose where and with whom to live in settings typical of non-disabled peers in a house or apartment in which no parent or conservator of the person resides and which the person chooses, owns and rents, controls and occupies as a principal place of residence;
2. People determine the routines, create the home atmosphere, make decision about who will enter and who will live there, develop their own rituals and celebrations and have a feeling of ownership;
3. A combination of natural supports (neighbors, families, friends, roommates, etc.), community supports (community services and organizations such as religious organizations and social clubs), “generic” supports (personal care assistance through In-Home Supported Services, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) etc.), environmental adaptations (push button telephones, beepers, computers, switches, intercom systems, audio and video tape recorders and other technology), other formal supports (professional services, skills training and other purchased services and supports) are provided to ensure that a person’s support needs are met and personal preferences are respected;
4. Services and supports focus on individual capabilities and strengths and are furnished where the person lives and within the context of his or her day-to-day activities;
5. Supported living encourages interdependence and enables people to experience the value of relationships within families, neighborhoods and communities; and
6. Housing and support services are not provided by the same organization so that the individual’s home is not jeopardized by a change in his or her relationship to a supported living service provider.

The range of supported living services and supports available includes, but is not limited to: assistance in finding, modifying and maintaining a home, facilitating circles of support to encourage the development of unpaid and natural supports in the community; advocacy and self-advocacy facilitation; development of employment opportunities; social and daily living skills, training and support; provision of 24 hour emergency response systems; securing adaptive equipment and supplies; recruiting and training individuals, paid or unpaid, to provide personal care and other assistance; and facilitating community participation.

PHILOSOPHY:

Harbor Regional Center believes that if a person wants to live in his or her own home, it is up to the person, his or her family, his or her conservator, the regional center service coordinator and other members of his or her planning team to help him or her identify (through the person-centered planning process) what he or she will need in the way of supports and services in order to accomplish this goal. Harbor Regional Center is committed to providing the support necessary to enable people with developmental disabilities who choose this living arrangement, irrespective of the intensity of their challenges, to live in their own homes and to benefit from the enriched opportunities and community relationships which often develop in these settings.

POLICY:

Harbor Regional Center may purchase supported living services for a person under the following circumstances:

1. The person is at least 18 years of age.
2. Risks of endangerment to health, safety and well-being associated with this living arrangement are understood by the person/family and can be minimized through individualized supports;
3. The person has chosen supported living as the most appropriate and desired living option;
4. The home chosen by the person is not also the place of residence of their parent, conservator or caregiver;
5. The person has or is eligible to receive, the financial resources necessary to pay for rent/mortgage, utilities, food, clothing and all other typical daily living expenses. Harbor Regional Center may make temporary rent, mortgage, lease or household expense payments:
 - In extraordinary circumstances
 - When the HRC Executive Director verifies in writing that making the rent, mortgage or lease payments or paying for household expenses is required to meet the specific care needs unique to the person as set forth in an addendum to the person's individual person-centered plan; and
 - That such temporary payment is required when the person has a documented medical, behavioral or psychiatric condition which presents a health and safety risk to himself or herself or another pursuant to the provisions of Welfare & Institutions Code §4689(i)(l).
6. Every feasible alternative source of service and support has been explored and utilized, including natural supports, community supports and generic supports, including but not limited to: subsidized housing, In-Home Supportive Services, SSI, private insurance, private trusts, Medi-Cal, Medicare and Veteran's Benefits.
7. In accordance with HRC Service Policy "General Standards" exceptions may be granted to this policy when the IFSP/IPP team establishes a need to authorize services outside of the service policy criteria.

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