

# **Harbor Regional Center A Parent's Guide to the Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP)**

In 2004, the state of California passed the Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP) a law which requires parents to share with regional centers the responsibility for obtaining needed services for their children. The law does not apply to all families and it applies to only a few services. Below is explained FCPP in a way that will help you decide whether you will be affected by it and, if you are affected, what your general level of responsibility would be.

If you require additional information beyond what is explained below, please refer to [www.harborrc.org](http://www.harborrc.org), client services section, family support, or contact your counselor.

## **Q: To whom does the law apply?**

**A:** To begin with, the law only applies to some families. These are families that meet the following criteria:

- The family has a child who is younger than 18 and lives in the family home.
- The child does not receive Medi-Cal.
- The child receives one or more of three specific services purchased by the regional center: respite, day care or staff support related to these services.
- The family has an income that is at least four times the Federal Poverty Level. (We explain the Federal Poverty Level below.)

If the family satisfies these criteria, they will be required to assume responsibility for obtaining some portion of the necessary service for the child, but their level of responsibility will increase with the family's income. At the lowest income level (four times the federal poverty level), the family would be responsible for 10% of the service. At the highest income level, the family's responsibility would be for 100% of the service.

## **Q. What is the Federal Poverty Level?**

**A.** The federal government has income guidelines that it uses to determine who is eligible for some of its programs such as SSI and Medicaid (Medi-Cal). The guidelines define what is usually called the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). They address both income and family size.

FCPP will apply only to families whose annual income is at least four times (or 400% of) the FPL. See the FCPP Assessment Schedule for more details.

Families who have more than one child subject to FCPP would have their level of participation reduced according to how many of their children are clients. For example, a

family with two children subject to FCPP would have their share reduced by 25%. The following table shows the reductions in the level of cost participation for families who have more than one child who are clients of regional center.

Number of children who are clients	Reduction in level of participation
2	25%
3	50%
4	75%
5 or more	100% (no participation required)

To get an idea of how much a family's responsibility would be, let's look at a simple example.

*Based on the April 1, 2012 FCPP Assessment Schedule, a family of four with an annual income of \$156,000\* is assessed to require 10 hours of respite a month. At this income level, the family's level of participation would be 20%. This means that the regional center would purchase 8 hours of respite and the family would deal directly with the service provider or would make other arrangements to obtain the 2 additional hours.*

The law also allows for a reduction in the level of participation for parents who experience "unavoidable and uninsured catastrophic loss" or "significant, un-reimbursed medical costs associated with the care for a regional center child."

## **Q. How is my family's income determined?**

**A.** The family cost participation is based on the family's Gross Income. You will be asked by the regional center to "self-certify" your income. You may do this by showing the first two pages of your most recent state or federal income tax return. If these documents are not available, you should contact your HRC counselor to discuss alternative types of documentation.

Families who are unable to provide evidence of their income will be required to participate at the highest (100%) level.