

Harbor Regional Center Policy

VOLUNTEERISM

DEFINITION:

Volunteerism is an unpaid activity which is of benefit to the community.

PHILOSOPHY:

Harbor Regional Center recognizes the significant contribution made by volunteers and the role of community and charitable organizations in supporting them. We believe volunteering should be open to all, no matter what their background, race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender *or disability*. And we believe that Harbor Regional Center clients can benefit, in both skill development and citizenship, by engaging in volunteer pursuits when doing so provides an opportunity for meaningful activities chosen by the individual.

POLICY:

From time to time Harbor Regional Center service providers facilitate and support Harbor Regional Center clients as they engage in volunteer activities. Harbor Regional Center may purchase services that include the provision of such support for clients only when the volunteer activity:

- Benefits both the community and the client;
- Is performed for government, not-for-profit, religious or other charitable organizations;
- Contributes only to the “good works” of the organization and does not promote religious or political points of view;
- Is of the client’s own choice and without coercion;
- Offers a variety of tasks from which the individual may choose;
- Takes place in an environment with non-disabled volunteers or employees;
- Is based upon a person’s interests and accomplishes an agreed-upon IFSP objective;
- Involves work that is not currently or would not otherwise be done by paid employees;
- Does not serve as a substitute for paid work.