

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 or 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/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/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/her own home, it is up to the person, his/her family, his/her conservator, the regional center service coordinator and other members of his/her planning team to help him/her identify (through the person-centered planning process) what he/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.

Harbor Regional Center has been a leader in the development of affordable housing options for people who reside in supported living settings by spearheading the creating of Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment (HOPE), an organization whose mission is to develop stable, safe and affordable living options for people with developmental disabilities. The formation of HOPE and the fostering of an ongoing partnership with HOPE in the creation of new and innovative models of affordable settings for supported living services delivery remains one of Harbor Regional Center's highest priority.

POLICY:

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

1. the client 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 client/family and can be minimized through supports;
3. the client has chosen supported living as the appropriate and desired living option;
4. the home chose by the client is not also the place of residence of their parent, conservator, or caregiver;
5. the client 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 except that 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 individual 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)(1).
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.