

**REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY  
PURCHASE OF SERVICE POLICY #3421**

**Date Revised: 10/2010**

**SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICE**

**PHILOSOPHY**

Supported living is based on assisting consumers to have more control over their lives. Supported living services help consumers find a house or apartment they own or rent and to set up the supports they need to live there. The supports needed for the consumer to be successful are either coordinated by a supported living agency, by a family member, or by the consumer.

**SERVICE DEFINITION**

Supported living services (SLS) are those services and supports that support consumers' efforts to make fundamental life decisions, while also supporting and facilitating consumers in dealing with the consequences of those decisions, building critical and durable relationships with other individuals, living in their own homes, participating in community activities, and realizing their individualized potential to live lives that are integrated, productive and normal. Consumers receive services from a provider they choose. Consumers receiving SLS shall have the right to make decisions that shape the nature and quality of their lives in accordance with their preferences, and consistent with the goals stated in their Individual Program Plan (IPP). . "The cost of providing services or supports of comparable quality by different providers, if available, shall be reviewed and the least costly available provider of comparable service, , including the cost of transportation, who is able to accomplish all or part of the consumer's individual program plan, consistent with the particular needs of the consumer and family as identified in the individual program plan, shall be selected. In determining the least costly provider, the availability of federal financial participation shall be considered. The consumer shall not be required to use the least costly provider if it will result in the consumer moving from an existing provider of services or supports to more restrictive or less integrated services or supports." Welf.& Inst. Code section 4648, subd. (a)(6)(D))

Supported living services are tailored to meet consumers' evolving needs. They include but are not limited to assisting with daily activities such as meal preparation, performing routine household activities, locating and scheduling medical care, animal care, selecting and moving into a home, choosing housemates, acquiring furnishings, settling disputes, building and maintaining interpersonal relationships including a circle of support, using emergency services, managing personal finances, recruiting, training and dismissing personal attendants, dealing with agencies, self-advocacy, and participating in the community.

**BOARD POLICY**

Supported Living is an exciting option for consumers. It requires a great deal of commitment and responsibility on the part of the consumer and his or her circle of support and agencies that support them. It is a service that is very different from

traditional residential service options, therefore it is important that consumers who are considering this option get as much information as possible at all steps of the process. The Board of Directors supports purchasing SLS when the consumer is 18 years or older, has expressed a preference for SLS amongst the options proposed during the IPP process, and will live in a home that is not the place of residence of a parent or conservator of the consumer. No consumer will be denied SLS service solely because of the nature and severity of his/her disability.

All Generic supports and services will be used first and to the fullest extent possible before RCEB purchase of service. If eligible, In-Home Supportive Services shall be used as part of the support plan and RCEB “shall not purchase supportive living services for a consumer to supplant IHSS”. Welf.& Inst. Code section 4689.05, subd.(b) RCEB will not purchase supportive living services “for a consumer who meets the criteria to receive, but declines to apply for, in-home supportive services (IHSS) benefits”.Welf. & Inst. Code section 4689.05, subd.(a). The RCEB “executive director may waive the requirements set forth in subdivision (a) if the executive director finds extraordinary circumstances warrant the waiver, and that a finding is documented in an addendum to the consumer’s individual program plan.”Welf.& Inst. Code section 4689, subd.(d). Between the date that a consumer applies for IHSS and the date that a consumer’s application for IHSS is approved” RCEB “shall not purchase supportive services for the consumer at a rate that exceeds the IHSS hourly rate, which includes the IHSS provider hourly wage, the provider’s hourly payroll taxes, and the hourly administrative costs, for the county in which the consumer resides”. Welf.& Inst. Code section 4689.05, subd. (c)

The Board of Directors strongly encourages the development of a circle of support and the use of natural supports in the community for all consumers receiving supported living services.

RCEB will not pay for any costs incurred by a consumer receiving SLS in securing, occupying or maintaining a home except when the Executive Director of RCEB approves using the criteria outlined in regulation.

Before SLS is provided to a consumer, the projected annual cost of the consumers’ SLS shall be determined through the IPP process. RCEB staff will help review the budgets of each consumer to help determine the cost of the services.

## **PROCEDURE**

Case managers will include SLS whenever discussing community living options with the Planning Team. This information will include an explanation of the general concept, purpose and practices of SLS and information on the options of providers available to provide the service.

RCEB staff will follow California Code of Regulations Title 17 Section 58601-58680. The desire to find a house or apartment that the consumer owns or rents and receive the supports to do so will be included as part of the consumers IPP. The case manager will assist the consumer in locating a provider and negotiating a plan of support. The case manager will be able to consult around the service plan and the cost of the service plan with a designated RCEB staff person before implementing the plan.

Case managers will review the SLS plan on a quarterly basis.

**AUTHORITY**

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4689 and California Code of Regulation  
Title 17. Sections 58601-58680.