Transportation Services (Children)

Westside Regional Center is committed to ensuring that inclusion, participation, and community involvement for children with developmental disabilities may be realized by supports to and investments in the communities in.

Westside Regional Center supports the availability of accessible, cost-effective transportation for children with developmental disabilities and their families because such transportation supports and services lead to greater opportunities for their participation in all aspects of community life, more potential to develop positive roles and relationships, and increased chances to make choices and to be more independent.

Westside Regional Center respects and encourages individuals and parents of minors to assume responsibility for privately arranging transportation when appropriate. Westside Regional Center will support and assist individuals in accessing generic transportation services that are responsible for serving members of the community. These generic services include public school transportation for students attending special education programs, para-transit, and other specialized transportation, as well as fixed route transportation services. Westside Regional Center will also advocate for accessible transportation services as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Purchase of Service Committee may authorize funding for a transportation support and/or service through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process in which the needs are assessed. The IPP process will include a discussion of a parent or primary caregiver's ability to provide transportation to community settings and natural environments.

Westside Regional Center may authorize the most cost-effective transportation supports and/or services for children when parent provided transportation, including public transit, is unavailable. Such transportation support and/or service will be authorized when the Purchase of Service Committee agrees to a transportation plan that assures the safety of the child being transported. To protect the health and safety of minor children, Westside Regional Center shall only fund for transporting a minor child when the child is accompanied by his/her parent, guardian, or caregiver. Westside Regional Center shall not fund transportation for minor siblings of the child being supported.

Westside Regional Center will not authorize funding for transportation for school-age children to access special education programs or when transportation is required to meet objectives in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For any school related transportation request, the family will reach out to the child's IEP Team.

Transportation of children to social and recreational activities, medical and dental appointments, therapy services, and other occasional trips in the community are the responsibility of the parent(s), the primary caregiver(s), or the residential service

provider using private and/or public transportation services. The need for transportation services must relate directly to the developmental disability and be identified in the IPP.

Westside Regional Center expects the child's family, who are able, to pay for all or part of their transportation costs when using a public transit service.

Transportation is an early intervention service as defined in federal regulations. Westside Regional Center may fund for transportation costs that are necessary to enable a child under three years of age and the child's family to receive early intervention services.

Westside Regional Center recognizes that some individual needs are so unique that they may not be addressed in this Service Policy and may require an exception. Such requests for an exception to a Service Policy will be made through Westside Regional Center's Purchase of Service Committee.