



TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Policies & Guidelines

Policies and Guidelines - 11701

SERVICE POLICY GUIDELINES

Independent Living Services

Tri-Counties Regional Center supports the hopes and preferred future(s) of persons with developmental disabilities towards maximum community inclusion and participation.

Tri-Counties Regional Center will provide independent living services, including both program- and home-based functional skills training, for adult individuals who generally have acquired basic self-help skills or who, because of their physical disabilities, do not possess basic self-help skills and employ and supervise aides to assist them in meeting their personal needs. Independent living skills are usually delivered in natural settings such as the actual settings where they will be used. Independent living services may be used to teach or maintain a wide variety of skills such as money and household management, social/leisure skills, mobility training, use of community resources, accessing generic services, facilitating self-advocacy, person served parenting skills training, and the use of direct supports.

Independent Living Programs provide community-based, structured, skill-based training programs designed to teach individuals the functional skills and behaviors necessary to secure a self-sustaining, independent living situation in the community. These programs are expected to continue for a maximum of two (2) years; however, the duration is to be determined by the Planning Team and may extend beyond twenty-four (24) months.

Home-based independent living supports provide functional skills training for adult individuals who are transitioning from supported settings (such as family homes or licensed residential facilities) or who need ongoing support to maintain these necessary skills in their own home. Transitional independent living services are expected to be short term (typically 3 months) and are authorized for individually determined levels of need. Tri-Counties Regional Center expects most individuals who have graduated from an Independent Living Program or who never needed such a program will utilize ongoing independent living supports for a maximum of fifteen (15) hours per month. Individuals who require ongoing independent living supports in excess of twenty (20) hours per month and for longer than two (2) years duration may be assessed for the appropriateness of Supported Living Services.

Requests for independent living supports and/or services are initiated by the Planning Team through the Individual Program Plan process. The Planning Team will determine what supports and/or services the individual needs and identify the resources available to meet those needs. These decisions will be based in part on an independent living skills assessment and will be documented on the Individual Program Plan.

Tri-Counties Regional Center will not authorize funding for the purchase of any independent living support and/or service that is considered experimental, optional, or elective in nature. The expected result from the provision of any independent living support, service, or combination of supports and services must lead to the development of measurable outcomes stated on the person's Individual Program Plan. The provision of independent living supports and/or services must be both clinically and fiscally an effective use of public funds.

Exception Policy:



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Tri-Counties Regional Center recognizes that some individual needs are so unique that they may not be addressed in this Service Policy. Such requests for an exception to a Service Policy will be made through the Planning Team process. If the Planning Team concurs, they will forward recommendations regarding the request to the Executive Director, or designee. Exceptions to a Service Policy may be granted by the Tri-Counties Regional Center Executive Director, or designee.