

## Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rules

Vendor name	Ability Now Bay Area; Ala Costa Centers; California Autism Foundation; Dungarvin California; Futures Explored; Harambee Community Services; Las Trampas
Vendor number(s)	Ability Now Bay Area: H04568; Ala Costa Centers: HB0892, H01957, PB0964; California Autism Foundation: H14294, HB0341; Dungarvin California: HB02690; Futures Explored: HB0263; Harambee Community Services: PG1816, PG1815, HB0934; Las Trampas: HB0034
Primary regional center	Regional Center of the East Bay
Service type(s)	Adult Day Programs, Adult Behavior Management Day Programs, Supported Employment Programs, After-School
Service code(s)	Ability Now Bay Area: 510; Ala Costa Centers: 851, 055; California Autism Foundation: 515, 954; Dungarvin: 510; Futures Explored: 510, 055, 111, 110, 091; Harambee Community Services: 055, 055, 515; Las Trampas: 510
Number of consumers currently serving and current staff to consumer ratio.	Ability Now Bay Area: 85/ 1:2 & 1:4; Ala Costa Centers: 81/ 1:5, 1:3, 1:1; California Autism Foundation: 104/ 1:1, 1:3, 1:15; Dungarvin: 45/ 1:3; Futures Explored: 500/ 1:2; Harambee Community Services: 90/ 1:1, 1:2, & 1:3; Las Trampas: 70/ 1:3 & 1:2
Have you or the organization you work with been a past recipient of HCBS Funding?	Yes – Ability Now Bay Area, California Autism Foundation, Futures Explored, Dungarvin, Harambee Community Services. No – Ala Costa Centers, Las Trampas
Please provide a brief description of the service/ setting that includes what a typical day consists of and how services are currently provided; include barriers to compliance with the HCBS rules.	There is a wide variety of programming provided by the collaborating organizations which include adult day, behavioral management day, and community based services, after school programming, and employment supports. These organizations all provide individual choice options to the best of their abilities but have similar challenges with reaching nonverbal participants and those with different types of communication. In an effort to meet HCBS rules, program and service providers all over the state could benefit from additional tools and technology that could better facilitate engagement around an individual's choice and preferences. Accessing what is important to an individual can often be challenging and thus provides a barrier to independence, choice, and accuracy of a person-centered plan. We, as a collaborating

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	group of providers, believe we can overcome these barriers with this joint proposal regarding communication tools.
Identify which HCBS federal requirements this concept addresses that are currently out of compliance.	Federal Requirements #1, #2, #3, #4, #5
Narrative/description of the concept; include justification for the funding request and explain how the concept would achieve proposed outcomes.	<p>Our Communication &amp; Training Modules Online Toolbox concept proposal includes the formation of a toolbox for creating access to Person-Centered Thinking and choice for persons with different forms of communication. This toolbox would be utilized by organizations to train staff on how to engage non-verbal or limited communicators. The toolbox would include training topics on four to five modules related to topics such as AAC, functional communication training, reciprocal language, informed decision making, person centered choices, and/or AAC applications and assessment for users. An online platform would be created with a subscription base for widespread access and sustainability. This online platform would ensure that organizations around the state could access the toolbox for implementation in their organizations thus extending the resources for a much greater community.</p> <p>The development of training materials, modules and technology (devices, website, etc) would be necessary to properly ensure that individuals could be reached in a variety of modalities (print, electronic, high/low tech) and that staff could be trained to effectively communicate and obtain personal choice and preferences through the person-centered planning process. Professional consultants would be retained with speech and language, behavioral, IT, and person-centered thinking curriculum expertise. The collaborative organizations would lead the coordination of these consultants and provide input from a service provider perspective. Initial technology devices and materials would be distributed amongst participating organizations and future technology costs would be covered by the user organization interested in using the developed software, applications, or modules. Marketing and outreach efforts would ensure that organizations across the State would have access to the online toolbox. With the proposed funding request, many organizations would benefit from the development of additional tools and resources to facilitate more engaged and informed decision making. This concept proposal would make significant progress in removing the barriers associated with the HCBS rules and better support informed decision making, person centered planning, and self-determination for all individuals.</p>

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Please describe your person-centered approach <sup>1</sup> in the concept development process; how did you involve the individuals for whom you provide services?	As a group of providers, each organization has incorporated the individuals that we serve through a variety of methods from participant surveys, parent surveys, parent and participant individual meetings, and participant group meetings.
Does the concept address unmet service needs or service disparities? If so, how?	Yes, this concept would address unmet service needs and disparities by providing the tools and training modules necessary for staff to fully engage participants to reach their wants, needs, desires, interests, and preferences. Without the proper tools to communicate, it is highly likely there are service needs in which providers are unaware and have gone unmet. Providing additional ways to access to participant choice and extending those resources to the greater community will provide greater clarity on unmet service needs and disparities and allow for greater opportunities for the individuals we support.
Estimated budget and timeline; identify all major costs and benchmarks — attachments are acceptable.	Please see the attached project budget with benchmarks for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
Total requested amount.	\$ 415,000
What is your plan for sustaining the benefits, value, and success of your project at the conclusion of 2018-19 HCBS Funding?	The sustainability plan for the Online Toolbox will be to offer the online platform with subscription-based access at minimal cost to organizations to access the information and maintain website maintenance costs. Participating organizations would be responsible for budgeting technology device costs as appropriate for their implementation of the trainings and engagement with participants through their PCT processes. Outreach and marketing to the community about the Online Toolbox would take place to engage more providers. The collaborating organizations could provide guidance to interested parties based on our experiences use of the tools. In an effort to meet HCBS rules, program and service providers all over the state could benefit from additional tools and technology that could better facilitate engagement around an individual's choice and preferences. This online platform would ensure that organizations around the state could access the toolbox for implementation in their organizations thus extending the resources for a much greater community.

<sup>1</sup> A person-centered approach emphasizes what is important to the individual who receives services and focuses on personal preferences, satisfaction, and choice of supports in accessing the full benefits of community living. For more information regarding person-centered practices, please visit [www.nasdds.org/resource-library/person-centered-practices](http://www.nasdds.org/resource-library/person-centered-practices).