

**Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rules
CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

Existing regional center vendors may receive funding to make changes to service settings and/or programs to help them come into compliance with the HCBS rules. To be considered for funding, vendors must complete and submit this form and the Provider Compliance Evaluation form by October 1, 2016, to the regional center with which it has primary vendorization.

This form may not exceed three pages and must be kept in Arial 12-point font. The narrative should link to the federal requirement that is not being met. The Provider Compliance Evaluation should guide the narrative. The results of the Evaluation should be clearly laid out in the narrative. Additionally, the narrative should describe how the funding would achieve compliance. Concept proposals should be developed with a person-centered approach, with proposed changes/activities focused on the needs and preferences of those who receive services. The estimated budget and timeline need not be detailed at this point but must include all major costs and benchmarks.

More information on the HCBS rules and this form can be found at:
<http://www.dds.ca.gov/HCBS/>

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| Vendor and vendor number | Opportunity Acres, HA0843 |
| Primary regional center | Alta California Regional Center |
| Service type and code | Adult Day Program, 515 |
| Number of consumers currently serving | 30 |
| Barriers to compliance with the HCBS rules and/or project implementation | <p>We have very few areas that are not currently in compliance. Our major barrier is that we only have one vehicle for the program, which limits our ability to get out into the greater community on a regular basis and at the frequency preferred by our clients.</p> <p>Our second barrier is lack of funding for additional staff training. We would like to provide more in depth initial training for our staff on the Lanterman Act and its history as well as client rights and the importance of client rights.</p> |
| Narrative/description of the project. Identify which HCBS federal requirements are currently out of compliance; include justification for funding request | <p>Opportunity Acres is a unique Adult Day Program situated on a 56 - acre ranch in Shingle Springs, California. Our program is based on the concept that teaching individuals with developmental disabilities to choose their work, choose their recreation and choose their friends ultimately promotes independence and a more fulfilling life. A core component of the program at Opportunity Acres is preparing individuals for future paid employment. Establishing this program on a working horse ranch was intentional in that it offers so many opportunities to teach the essential skills needed to maintain paid employment. Clients can choose to work with the animals, learn basic repairs and construction, land and facilities management, household maintenance, and gardening.</p> |

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| | <p>Our clients participate in their local community in a variety of ways. When supplies are needed (ranch supplies, food supplies, office supplies, materials for repairs on the ranch), individuals can choose to go on the outing to obtain needed items. In addition to outings for supplies, regular recreational trips are planned based on clients' expressed interests. These trips include movies, bowling, trips to local farms (Apple Hill), State Fair, County Fairs, restaurants, etc. Our clients manage a recycling program that offers them additional funds for recreational activities of choice.</p> <p>Because we are a newer program and our unique setting presents many costs to maintain, we have not been able to develop a fleet of vehicles that would allow us to get our clients out into the community as frequently as we would like or as often as they would desire.</p> <p>At this time, Opportunity Acres does not meet some elements of requirement number 1 in supporting full access of individuals to the greater community because of a lack of vehicles and additional staff members. Our access at this time is limited and not frequent enough. In order to meet this requirement we would need to add three mini-vans or similar vehicles to our fleet and hire two additional staff members to provide adequate drivers/direct care staff.</p> <p>The addition of three more vehicles and two additional staff members would allow all of our clients to access the community on a more frequent basis. Community outings could occur daily allowing three groups of three clients (program ratio is 1:3) to go to desired locations daily. With nine individuals in the location of their choice daily, all 30 individuals would get to participate in the community every week.</p> <p>The attached budget includes the money needed to purchase the vehicles, fuel, maintenance, registration and insurance for the vehicles. Our budget includes the hiring of two additional staff members to ensure that we have enough drivers to leave the site with our clients and provide safe supervision and coaching. Because our ratio is 1 staff person for every 3 clients, and we may not always have exactly nine clients who would like to access the community on any given day, we will need adequate staff to leave with those who desire to go and maintain proper ratios on site. In order to keep our clients safe and provide quality coaching and support on job sites as well as recreational sites, while maintaining the proper ratio on site, we will need to hire two additional staff members. The budget includes the cost of recruiting, hiring, screening and training and maintaining these additional staff members on payroll.</p> |
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| | <p>Opportunity Acres provides initial staff training of 30 hours plus orientation and ongoing continuing education per the requirements of community care licensing. Training covers a wide variety of topics including clients' rights. However, in order to fully meet the requirements of number 3, Opportunity Acres would like to provide it's staff members with more training specifically on the Lanterman Act, the history of the Lanterman Act, how to promote self-advocacy in our clients, and more in depth training of Client's Rights. Our clients are certainly have a right to privacy, dignity and respect and freedom from coercion and restraint. However, our program would only be further enhanced by staff members who have in depth training and continuing education specifically on these topics. Scheduling staff training requires that we close the program for a day. Because our staff members transport our clients to and from program, staff training held at the end of program day would result in several hours of overtime on payroll. Therefore, staff development days are scheduled throughout the year by closing the program for a day, effecting income, which also makes training very costly. Closing program negatively affects our clients as well. In order to provide training above and beyond the current schedule, Opportunity Acres will either have to endure the cost of overtime or continue to shut program down for additional days each year. With further funding, Opportunity Acres could refrain from closing program for training and rather pay employees overtime to return to the site after transporting clients home and receive additional training in the above mentioned topics.</p> |
| <p>Estimated budget; identify all major costs and benchmarks— attachments are acceptable</p> | <p>See attached. This budget includes the initial costs of needed vehicles and staff, as well as costs for the year to maintain, fuel and insure the vehicles.</p> |
| <p>Requested funding for 2016-17</p> | <p>\$179,320.00</p> |
| <p>Estimated timeline for the project</p> | <p>Opportunity Acres, with the necessary funding, would be able to come into compliance in these two areas by the end of 2018.</p> |