The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) rules ensure that people with disabilities have full access to, and enjoy the benefits of, community living through long-term services and supports in the most integrated settings of their choosing. In order to assist in determining eligibility for compliance funding, providers must complete this evaluation. Both "Yes" and "No" answers require an explanation. A "No" response *could* mean a service setting is out of compliance with the HCBS rules and is potentially eligible for funding to make necessary adjustments. Once this evaluation is completed, it should act as a guide for filling out the provider compliance funding concept, which is required for any provider to be eligible for compliance funding. **Completion of this evaluation is for the sole purpose of applying for compliance funding and does not take the place of future provider assessments that the Department may require to determine provider compliance with the HCBS settings rules. Only providers requesting compliance funding need to complete this evaluation.**

Federal Requirements #1-5 apply to providers of all services, including residential and nonresidential settings. Federal Requirements #6-10 are additional requirements that apply only to provider-owned or controlled residential settings.

The column labeled "Guidance" contains a series of questions intended to help identify compliance or non-compliance with each requirement as it relates to the HCBS rules. While responses to these questions can help in the determination of whether or not a particular requirement is met, these responses may not be the sole factor in this determination.

More information on the HCBS rules and this form can be found at <u>https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations/</u>.

Questions may be directed to HCBSregs@dds.ca.gov.

Date(s) of Evaluation: 2/10/2021	Completed by: Jeff Pockett			
Vendor Name, Address, Contact: Reaching A, Scotia, CA 95565 & 355 Standard Vene	g For Independence, Inc. 113 Main Street, Suite er, Crescent City, CA 95531 Jeff Pockett			
Vendor Number: HR0280				
Service Type and Code: Community Integr	ation Training Program – 055			

Federal Requirement #1: The setting is integrated in, and supports full access of individuals receiving Medicaid HCBS to the greater community, including opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community, to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Do individuals receive services in the community based on their needs, preferences and abilities? Does the individual participate in outings and activities in the community as part of his or her plan for services? If an individual wants to seek paid employment, does the home staff refer the individual to the appropriate community agency/resource? Do individuals have the option to control their personal resources, as appropriate? 			
Does the service and/or program meet this requirement? □ Yes No Please explain: In effort to become compliant with HCBS regulation, RFI has transitioned from Community Care Licensed facilities to a strictly community based program. In developing a community based program geared towards the needs, preferences, and abilities of the individual, RFI has identified limitations due to the lack of available transportation. This requires RFI to transport the individual in groups instead of individually, which limits access to the community at the same degree of access as people not receiving Medicaid HCBS funding have.				
 <u>Federal Requirement #2:</u> The setting is selected by the individual from among setting options, including non- disability-specific settings and an option for a private unit in a residential setting. The setting options are identified and documented in the person-centered service plan and are based on the individual's needs, preferences, and, for residential settings, resources available for room and board. 				
Does the service and/or program meet this requirement? I Yes I No Please explain: Reaching for Independence, Inc. works closely with Redwood Coast Regional Center as well as the individuals' Circle of Support, REI generally attends IPP				

Please explain: Reaching for Independence, Inc. works closely with Redwood Coast Regional Center as well as the individuals' Circle of Support. RFI generally attends IPP meetings to discuss what services the individual currently has and what is available. RFI ensures that if an individual expresses interest in a different service, or has a need that RFI cannot meet, RFI helps the individual contact their Service Coordinator to make those requests. During the ISP process, the individual and Circle of Support are informed of all options that RFI offers as well as other programs or services that may be better able to meet their needs. RFI has helped individuals transfer to other programs that they

felt would be a better fit. RFI requests IPP's if they don't have the current document on file.						
Federal Requirement #3: Ensures an individual's rights of privacy, dignity and respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Does the provider inform individuals, in a manner they can understand, of their rights to privacy, dignity, respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint? Does the provider communicate, both verbally and in writing, in a manner that ensures privacy and confidentiality? Do staff communicate with individuals based on their needs and preferences, including alternative methods of communication where needed (e.g., assistive technology, Braille, large font print, sign language, participants' language, etc.)? 					

Does the service and/or program meet this requirement? \square Yes \square No

Please explain: RFI provides annual training to all staff regarding individual's rights and confidentiality. (Title 17 section 50510 and Confidentiality W&IC 4518). Annually, RFI meets with individuals and reviews their rights. RFI reviews DSP 340 with the individual and their team. RFI works with the individual's team to determine the clients preferred method of communication. RFI has and will communicate with the individual in their preferred method of communication such as, Proloquo2Go, NovaChat, or sign language to help the individual understand their rights. If new individuals come to RFI, staff will work with the individuals preferred method of communication as well.

Federal Requirement #4: Optimizes but does not regiment individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices, including, but not limited to, daily activities, physical environment, and with whom to interact.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Does the provider offer daily activities that are based on the individual's needs and preferences? Does the provider structure their support so that the individual is able to interact with individuals they choose to interact with, both at home and in community settings? Does the provider structure their support so that the individual is able to participate in activities that interact
	•

Does the service and/or program meet this requirement? \Box Yes \boxtimes No Please explain: In efforts to become fully compliant with HCBS final rule, RFI has moved to a community based setting with a flex ratio of 1:3. RFI bases the services, supports and community outings on each individuals needs and preferences, however, with the limit of small vehicles to transport individuals to their preferred activities, individuals are required to access the community in groups, or outings are based on the availability of public transportation which is extremely limited in our area.				
Federal Requirement #5: Facilitates individual choice regarding services and supports, and who provides them.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Does the provider support individuals in choosing which staff provide their care to the extent that alternative staff are available? Do individuals have opportunities to modify their services and/or voice their concerns outside of the scheduled review of services? 			
Does the service and/or program meet this requirement? □ Yes ⊠ No Please explain: Individuals are able to voice their concerns at any time with RFI Direct Support Staff, Service Directors, or any RFI management member. If concerns are brought to RFI's attention they will work with the team to determine the steps needed to either change the current services to meet their needs or help individuals obtain supports from the other agencies to meet their needs. RFI also works with individuals so that they can have the staff that they prefer to work with to the extent that alternative staff and transportation is available. Unfortunately, due to staff limitations to transportation, the individuals preferred staff may not be able to transport them to community settings or activities.				

Only providers of services in **provider-owned or controlled residential settings** need to complete the remainder of this evaluation. In **provider-owned or controlled residential settings**, in addition to the above requirements, the following requirements must also be met:

Federal Requirement #6: The unit or dwelling is a specific physical place that can be owned, rented or occupied under a legally enforceable agreement by the individual receiving services, and the individual has, at a minimum, the same responsibilities and protections from eviction that tenants have under the landlord/tenant law of the State, county, city or other designated entity. For settings in which landlord/tenant laws do not apply, the State must ensure that a lease, residency agreement or other form of written agreement will be in place for each participant and that the document provides protections that address eviction processes and appeals comparable to those provided under the jurisdiction's landlord/tenant law.	 <u>Guidance:</u> As applicable, does each individual have a lease, residency agreement, admission agreement, or other form of written residency agreement? Are individuals informed about how to relocate and request new housing? 		
Does the service and/or program meet this Please explain: NA	s requirement? 🗆 Yes 🗆 No		
Federal Requirement #7:Each individual has privacy in his/hersleeping or living unit:Units have entrance doors lockable by theindividual, with only appropriate staffhaving keys to doors as needed.Individuals sharing units have a choice ofroommates in that setting.Individuals have the freedom to furnish anddecorate their sleeping or living units withinthe lease or other agreement.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Do individuals have a choice regarding roommates or private accommodations? Do individuals have the option of furnishing and decorating their sleeping or living units with their own personal items, in a manner that is based on their preferences? Do individuals have the ability to lock their bedroom doors when they choose? 		
Does the service and/or program meet this Please explain: NA	⊥ s requirement? □ Yes □ No		

Federal Requirement #8:	Guidance:			
Individuals have the freedom and support to control their own schedules and activities, and have access to food at any time.	 Do individuals have access to food at any time? Does the home allow individuals to set their own daily schedules? Do individuals have full access to typical facilities in a home such as a kitchen, dining area, laundry, and comfortable seating in shared areas? 			
Does the service and/or program meet this Please explain: NA	s requirement? 🛛 Yes 🗆 No			
<u>Federal Requirement #9:</u> Individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Are visitors welcome to visit the home at any time? Can individuals go with visitors outside the home; such as for a meal or shopping, or for a longer visit outside the home, such as for holidays or weekends? 			
Does the service and/or program meet this Please explain: NA	s requirement? 🛛 Yes 🗆 No			
Federal Requirement #10: The setting is physically accessible to the individual.	 <u>Guidance:</u> Do individuals have the freedom to move about inside and outside the home or are they primarily restricted to one room or area? Are grab bars, seats in bathrooms, ramps for wheelchairs, etc., available so that individuals who need those supports can move about the setting as they choose? Are appliances and furniture accessible to every individual? 			
Does the service and/or program meet this Please explain: NA	⊧ s requirement? □ Yes □ No			

Contact Name:	Jeff Pockett
Contact Phone Number:	7075063044
Email Address:	Jpockett.rfi@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By checking the box below, I acknowledge that completion of this evaluation is for the sole purpose of applying for compliance funding and does not take the place of future provider assessments that the Department may require to determine provider compliance with the HCBS settings rules.

⊠ I AGREE

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 as one packet to the regional center with which it has primary vendorization.

Instructions:

- The concept form on the next page must be used, may not exceed four pages plus the budget worksheet and any cost backup, and must be kept in Arial 12-point font. Submit the form in Microsoft Word or PDF format. An extra half page is permitted to answer questions about prior funding.
- Using a form from previous years will negatively impact a concept score, so please ensure the current FY 20-21 form is used.
- For providers that operate programs with several vendor numbers involved in one concept, one evaluation and concept form should be submitted and should list all vendor numbers for related/included programs. If multiple programs owned by the same parent company have different compliance evaluations or concepts, additional applications can be submitted but should be attached in the same document as the other owned programs so they can be reviewed together.
- The results of the evaluation should be clearly laid out in the section referring to identification of federal requirements that are currently out of compliance, which the concept will address.
- The concept form includes detailed information that describes the funding requests and supports how the requests will assist the provider to come into compliance.
- There should be a clear link between what is being requested and the federal requirement currently out of compliance.
- Concepts should demonstrate how the requested change in service delivery will impact individuals in offering more choices and opportunities.

Strengths of previously funded concepts:

- Identified the need as well as proposed a plan to provide outreach and information regarding the HCBS rules to individuals served and members of their support teams.
- Discussed the need for additional funds to effectively support individuals served on a more individualized basis in overcoming barriers to community integration and employment, as appropriate.
- Prioritized the preferences of individuals served and utilized their feedback in the development of the concept.
- Implemented a sustainable plan for person-centered planning/thinking and training regarding the HCBS rules.
- Enabled residents to age in place and exercise more choice and independence.

More information on the HCBS rules and this form can be found at <u>https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations/</u>.

Vendor name	Reaching For Independence, Inc.			
Vendor number(s)	HR0280			
Primary regional center	Redwood Coast Regional Center			
Service type(s)	Community Integration Training Program			
Service code(s)	055			
Number of consumers typically and currently served	72			
Typical and current staff-to-consumer ratio	1:3 Flex			
1. Please provide a brief description of the service/setting. Include what a typical day consists of during regular program as well as how services are currently being provided. This response must include the baseline/current levels for any aspects of the program for which the concept proposes funding.				
Reaching For Independence (RFI) is currently vendorized with Redwood Coast Regional Center to provide services which include employment skills, life and social skills, healthy living, and community safety. In an effort to become HCBS Final Rule compliant, RFI is now a 100% community based program. RFI has several job crews that provide lawn care, house cleaning, and janitorial services throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. During employment on these crews, individuals learn employment skills, work place appropriateness, working with coworkers, as well as a host of soft skills. All individuals receive at least minimum wage for all work performed. Each individuals program is unique to them. They pick the goals that they want to work on and the activities that help move them towards accomplishing their goals. RFI's typical day, pre COVID-19, was based out of a Community Care Licensed Facility. Individual's would arrive at 9:00am and review the daily plan with staff. As COVID-19 shelter in place restrictions lessen and RFI is once again able to increase in-person supports, RFI staff will once again match one to three individuals depending on their goals or activities for the day. For individuals that are interested, RFI works with them on community employment, internships, or community volunteer opportunities and typically end the day at 3:00pm. The barriers that have prevented RFI from fully complying with HCBS regulations and providing these services to all individuals that request them, is the lack of reliable small vehicles to provide individualized transportation. During this pandemic, RFI has provided group Zoom classes, individual supports through mail, phone, FaceTime, and Zoom. RFI continues to support individuals in-person with employment support, household needs, delivery of supplies to the home, and COVID-19 safety education. RFI is also providing in-person support to the level that individuals and care providers are comfortable with during this pandemic. COVID-19 safety protocol is in place and u				

Project Narrative Description: While filling out this section, reflect on how services are typically provided and how that might have changed in the past year. Think about what has been learned in the past year and how that might shape services going forward. Funding awarded through this concept can span the course of up to two years which would allow time to shape services to be more person-centered and align with the HCBS federal requirements.

2. Please provide a brief summary narrative of the concept for which you are requesting funding, including justification for the funding.

Over the last year, RFI has transitioned from operating three Community Care Licensed facilities to community based only programs. During this time additional challenges were presented through the COVID-19 pandemic. Communication with individuals changed from in-person to virtual meetings. Activities transitioned from group activities to individual supports. During this time, RFI has recognized that when individuals are able to work 1:1 with staff on goals or activities, a greater increase in progress towards outcomes was observed. Moving forward, RFI desires to continue to focus on providing individualized 1:1 services for as many individuals as possible. As COVID-19 regulations diminish and/or come to an end, RFI believes that community employers will once again be looking to find employees and those individuals that are currently not working due to COVID-19 will want to return to work. In order to be able to accommodate this increase in 1:1 supports, and transporting individuals to various locations, as well as provide for individual requests, RFI staff will need access to additional vehicles. By purchasing additional compact vehicles, RFI will be in a position to more readily provide individualized supports based on the individual's needs, not on the availability of transportation.

3. Identify which HCBS federal requirements this concept addresses that are currently out of compliance. Could be all or a subset of those identified as out of compliance on the evaluation.

1_x_2__3_4_x_5_x_6_7__8__9__10___

4. For each HCBS out-of-compliance federal requirement that is being addressed by this concept, describe the barriers to compliance and why this concept is necessary. If this information is in the evaluation section, please copy it here.

All of RFI's individuals live in rural Humboldt or Del Norte Counties with extremely limited access to public transportation. As RFI is now a fully community based day program, all of its individuals require transportation beyond the scope of limited public transportation to get to jobs, internships, educational opportunities, etc. RFI's individuals have requested that their program be developed around their needs and preferences. In order to be able to transport individuals to various locations throughout the community, RFI will need additional compact vehicles. By adding 3 vehicles to our Del Norte location and 7 to our Humboldt County location, RFI will have the ability to use these compact cost effective vehicles for individualized supports. Having additional vehicles will allow for RFI's individuals to participate in community activities, seek individualized employment, and participate in daily activities based on their needs and preferences. This increase in available vehicles will enable RFI to achieve compliance with HCBS federal requirement #1, #4, and #5.

5.For each out-of-compliance federal requirement that is addressed in this concept, please explain how the concept will bring the vendor into compliance by March 2023.

RFI will purchase the vehicles as soon as grant funding is approved and available. This will allow RFI to offer (Federal Requirement #1) services to individuals in a community setting based on their needs, preferences, and abilities and would be outlined in their Individual Support Plan. (Federal Requirement #4) RFI would be able to offer daily activities that are based on the individual's needs and preferences in community settings. These services will be outlined in the individual's current IPP and ISP. (Federal Requirement #5) Because additional vehicles are accessible, staff will be more readily available to support clients in gaining access to their community.

6. What are the proposed outcomes and objectives of the concept, and what are the methods of achieving and tracking them?

The proposed outcome and objective of this concept is for RFI's individuals to have more opportunity for individual choice, gain additional access to the community based on their needs and preferences, and to no longer be limited by transportation options.

7. Please describe how and/or what was done to include input from the individuals served in developing this concept? Discuss not only the development of the concept, but also what steps were taken to identify the interests and desires of the individuals and who was involved in that process.

Reaching for Independence, Inc. has annual Individual Service Plan (ISP) team meetings. RFI also meets with each individual quarterly. RFI encourages the individual to invite anyone that they would like to have at their meetings. During these meetings, individuals have requested to have internships, community integrated employment, and volunteer opportunities throughout the community. They have also expressed frustration with having to be limited by public transportation, or parent/guardians to transport them to their desired location when RFI is unable to meet their needs.

8. Please describe how the concept you propose will enable you to provide more personcentered services to your clients.

With access to reliable compact vehicles, RFI will greatly increase its ability for individuals to navigate the community. RFI will have greater capacity to assist individuals and their Circle of Support to identify the community settings that the individual would like to receive services in. This will provide a more person-centered service to individuals as they will no longer have to share transportation or wait for other's outings to finish due to a lack of availability of vehicles to transport them to their desired locations.

9. Please address your plan for maintaining the benefits, value, and success of your project at the conclusion of 2020-21 HCBS Funding.

RFI is currently vendored through RCRC under service code 055 for Community Integration Services. Through these current services, RFI will be able to finance and maintain staffing, management, vehicle insurance, and maintenance in order to preserve the benefits, value, and success of this project by the conclusion of the 2020-2021 HCBS funding cycle.

10. Write a brief narrative below explaining each major cost category and timeline. Complete the budget template at the end of the concept sheet. An excel version with formulas is available. When applicable, budgets should include personnel/benefits, operating costs such as

consultants or training, administrative expenses/indirect costs, and capital costs (assets lasting more than 2 years). If project spans 2 years or occurs in phases, budget should be separated by phase/year.

Administrative costs, if any, must comply with DDS' vendor requirements, including a cap of 15% of the sum of personnel/benefits, consulting, and operating costs (must exclude capital costs). This information can be found at this <u>link</u>.

The 10 vehicles that this grant would enable RFI to purchase, would provide an estimated two million miles over ten years of service to RFI's individuals. Each vehicle comes standard with a 5 year/60,000-mile bumper to bumper warranty, 3 years/36,000 miles of basic maintenance, and 5 years of road side assistance. These compact hybrid fuel/battery vehicles are also a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fueled vehicles with an estimated 55 miles per gallon. This equates to an approximate savings of about \$75,000 dollars in fuel costs over the life of the vehicle compared to a non-hybrid vehicle. RFI will benefit over the life cycle of each vehicle from reduced vehicle maintenance costs as well as fuel costs.

10 – Hyundai IONIQ Hybrid (or similar) vehicles \$21,250 per vehicle

10 – Tax and Licensing per vehicle = \$3,000

Total Cost = \$242,500

Total HCSB requested funds = \$242,500

To be purchased during the 2021 to 2022 fiscal year.

RFI will also cover the cost of insurance, registration, repairs, staff expenses and administrative costs.

11. Please address sustainability of funding sources for all programs or concepts requiring any funding past the timeframe of the requested funding, especially those that involve staff or other long-term costs. Please mark "not applicable" if costs will all be incurred during the program timeframe; up to two years.

RFI will continue to provide services through vendorization with RCRC. RFI will fund all additional vehicle costs beyond the purchase cost of the vehicles. RFI is continually looking for fundraising opportunities as well as additional funding sources.

	HCBS Funding No _x Yes. If Yes, FY(s) 2018-2019	
12. Have you or the organization you work	Disparity Funding _x No Yes. If Yes, FY(s)	_
with been a past recipient	CPP Funding No _x Yes. If Yes, FY(s) 2014-2015	
of DDS funding? If yes,	CRDP Funding _x_ No Yes. If Yes, FY(s)	_
what fiscal year(s)?	If we to any supertion he can be an owned and the	

If yes to any question be sure to answer questions 13 and 14.

For providers who have received prior HCBS, Disparity, CPP or CRDP Funding from DDS

13. If your organization has received prior funding from any of the above sources, please provide an update on the prior funding project. You may copy and paste from progress update(s) previously provided to regional centers or DDS.

RFI received funding through the HCBS 2018-2019 funding cycle. RFI has successfully completed all current deliverables. These included hiring and maintaining two Employment Specialist positions. 2014-2015 RFI received CPP funding to expand

Community Integration services to Del Norte County. RFI successfully completed all deliverables and continues operate and provide services in Del Norte County.

14. If your organization received prior funding, please explain how the current funding request is not redundant with any prior funding received and/or builds on the prior funding but was not part of the original funding.

This funding is not redundant to this request as it did not address any transportation shortfalls.

The prior HCBS funding received was for the hiring, training, and support for the two Employment Specialist positions as well as training supplies for individuals served. The prior CPP funding was received to expand Community Integration Services in Del Norte County, this funding did not include vehicles.

HCBS CONCEPT BUDGET							
Vendor Name	Reaching For Indepen	dence. Inc.					
Vendor Number(s)	HR2080 & HR2	081					
		Year 1 Budget		Year 2	Budget		Total
	Wage and Benefits	FTE	Annual Cost	FTE	Annual Cost		Cost
Personnel (wage + benefits)						-	
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Position Description		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Personnel Subtotal		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Operating expenses							
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
Operating Subtotal		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Administrative Expenses							
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						\$	-
				_		\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
Administrative Subtotal		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Capital expenses							
10 Hyundai IONIQ vehicles		\$	212,500			\$	212,500
cost per vehicle = \$21,250 per	vehicle		,====			\$	-
tax and licensing = \$3,000 per		\$	30,000			\$	30,000
			20,000			\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
						\$	-
Capital Subtotal		\$	242,500	\$	_	\$	242,500
Total Concept Cost		\$ \$	242,500	\$ \$	-	\$ \$	242,500
		Ş	242,500	Ş	-	Ş	242,500

See Attachment F for budget details and restrictions