

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

Vendor name	CLIMB, Inc
Vendor number(s)	H05731
Contact Name	Alexis Boxer
Contact Email Address	<a href="mailto:aboxer@climb-inc.com">aboxer@climb-inc.com</a>
Primary regional center	San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
Service type(s)	Adult Residential Facility
Service code(s)	915
Number of consumers typically and currently served	39 currently (capacity 40)
Typical and current staff-to-consumer ratio	1:4/5
<p>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. If you have previously identified your program as compliant with the HCBS Final Rule through the Self-Assessment, what changes have occurred that has changed your level of compliance?</p>	
<p>CLIMB's Sierra Madre facility is a 40-bed level 3 adult residential facility. It is located in the heart of downtown Sierra Madre, a quaint town that is known for its diversity, small-town charm, and local artists. A majority of the residents in the facility (82%) are blind or visually impaired. CLIMB is specialized in providing support to blind individuals. Furthermore, roughly 80% of the residents are now over age 60, and many have more significant medical issues and have begun to experience greater mobility challenges. CLIMB has been in discussion with SG/PRC for several years now on how best to support the aging population to enable the residents to remain in their home and community of many decades so they may age in place. A plan was developed to convert the facility from ARF to RCFE licensing category, as well as change the service level from level 3 to 4C, thereby allowing the facility to provide higher staffing hours and individual consulting hours from our excellent RN Consultant. The program and licensing changes are underway, with projected completion at the end of 2022. Allowing residents to age in place with continued access to their community is not only their desire, but relocation is simply not feasible due to the fact that real estate in Sierra Madre is highly desirable, limited, and inaccessible due to high property values. Since its opening in 1977, CLIMB has been a vibrant hub of life in the greater community. The Sierra Madre community was extremely welcoming to the program and continues to embrace residents with acceptance and inclusion. In fact, the town of Sierra Madre has become known for the residents of CLIMB who often travel down the main street with white canes to run errands and visit friends. The community has been equally welcomed and embraced by CLIMB. Community members come to visit residents, volunteer during activities, and provide religious support. The current front entrance to the facility has a path with 14 stairs that take residents from the street sidewalk up a considerable elevation to the front entry doors. While our Mobility Specialist has trained residents for years in how to navigate this path, as our population is aging we have identified through discussions with residents that navigating these steps can be a</p>	

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barrier to community access. As residents face increasing health challenges, some have come to rely upon wheelchair use during recovery periods, and it is a very realistic possibility that in the next 5-10 years residents may require full time wheelchair use.

**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.

This request is for funding the construction of a front accessibility ramp subproject of an overall major capital improvement project that CLIMB is undertaking to create a compliant and sustainable residential program. This new front accessibility ramp will be easy to traverse for both wheelchair and cane users and will replace the current entry with 14 stairs. Please see the attached existing site drawing and concept drawing. This capital improvement project is essential for resident accessibility and will greatly improve community access and integration for all residents, and equally enable accessibility to the facility for outside community members who must utilize a ramp. The project will support **community integration** by creating more opportunities for meaningful interaction for residents with individuals not receiving regional center services. The project will support **individual rights** by facilitating individuals going with visitors outside the home and enable individuals having the freedom to move about inside and outside the home independently. The project will support **choice** by ensuring that individuals are able to interact with people they choose to interact with, both at home and in community settings.

3. Identify which category/ categories this concept addresses.

- Community Integration
- Individual Rights
- Choice
- Collaboration

4. Please list the proposed objectives and outcomes of the concept, as well as the methods of achieving and tracking them. How will this concept assist you in reaching goals within the category that you are requesting funds?

The objective of the project is to construct an accessible ramp to the front entrance of the building in order to promote community integration and support individual rights and choices. While residents have begun to access the community to a greater extent since COVID-19 conditions have improved, we believe that the ramp will increase community integration by resulting in a greater number of activities planned in the community and an increased frequency of community access. Residents currently access the community on average 2 times per week (project baseline). We will be tracking frequency of outings in 2022, and we are setting the goal of 3 outings per week on average as the goal for each resident once the ramp project is complete.

5. Please describe how and/or what was done to ensure that individuals served by the program led the development of 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.

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This concept was developed over the previous few years when we began to meet with our stakeholders to discuss the HCBS Final Rule and brainstorm transformations that should be made in our programs. Residents immediately formed an Advocacy Committee that meets monthly to plan activities, discuss improvements, and promote collective goals and wishes. The Advocacy Committee identified several areas where improvements could be made in the facility. The first phase of CLIMB coming into compliance focused on building our Person Centered Thinking Training and implementing programming modifications. The residents also identified physical plant improvements that CLIMB is now focusing on. One improvement to be started in early 2022 will be a complete kitchen remodel in order to create better accessibility and facilitate greater participation in daily food prep and cooking activities. The ramp was also identified as a need for the entire facility in order for residents to continue accessing the community.

6. Please describe how the concept you propose will enable you to provide more person-centered services to the individuals you serve.

The accessibility ramp will enable individuals to have greater choices in their daily activities, both inside and outside of the facility. Current conditions require 1:1 staff assistance for residents to navigate the front stairs in order to make community trips, so outings can be limited at times by staff availability. The ramp will allow safe and independent access for individuals to come and go as they please, or if requiring guidance due to blindness, will enable staff to support a greater number of residents to make trips out more easily.

7. What percentage of individuals served by your program will directly benefit from implementation of this concept?

100% of individuals served by the program will directly benefit from this accessibility improvement. While there are currently no permanent wheelchair users at the facility, 82% of the residents are blind or visually impaired. Many of those residents use canes to travel around the Sierra Madre community to work, see friends, and run errands. Creating a safer and easier way for blind residents to access the community without having to navigate stairs up or down from the front door will benefit all of them, especially as this older population continues to age and may experience more difficulty go up and down stairs.

8. Please address your plan for maintaining the benefits, value, and success of your project at the conclusion of 2021-22 HCBS Funding.

The project will ensure easy physical accessibility to the community for all residents for years to come and enable them to continue to be actively involved community members as they age in place and may experience more limited mobility and/or require a wheelchair. It will benefit others from the community who need accessible entry and may wish to visit residents in their home. After initial construction, the ramp should require minimal upkeep and maintenance, which will be performed as needed by the facility to keep it in ideal operating condition.

9. 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

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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 [link](#).

The budget for this subproject is part of an overall major capital improvement project that CLIMB is undertaking to create a compliant and sustainable program. While the complete project is budgeted for \$350,000, this funding request is for \$85,000 to cover the specific costs of developing the ramp design, city permits, excavation, and construction. The project should take 3-4 months to complete, and is projected to be finished during the 2022 calendar year. All line items in the funding budget request are capital expenses and include: \$7,500 architect fees, \$2,500 city permits, and \$75,000 for construction costs. This budget is an estimate only, and total costs could exceed the proposed total amount of \$85,000. Additional project costs will be covered by CLIMB.

10. 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.

N/A – All costs will be incurred during the program timeframe.

11. Have you or the organization you work with been a past recipient of DDS funding? If yes, what fiscal year(s)?	HCBS Funding    ___ No <u>X</u> Yes.        If Yes, FY(s) 2017-2018 Service Access and Equity Funding    ___ No ___ Yes. If Yes, FY(s) ___ CPP Funding        ___ No ___ Yes. If Yes, FY(s) _____ CRDP Funding      ___ No ___ Yes. If Yes, FY(s) _____ If yes to any question be sure to answer questions 13 and 14.
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### **For providers who have received prior HCBS, Disparity, CPP or CRDP Funding from DDS**

12. 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.

The HCBS Grant we received for FY 2017-2018 was completely utilized and closed with SG/PRC. All milestone goals were achieved.

13. 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.

Previously received HCBS funding was utilized to develop a Person-Centered Thinking training program for our residential and day programs. With the funding, CLIMB trained and certified four (4) management staff as Person-Centered Thinking Trainers with the Learning Community. We also hired a consultant to assist us with reviewing and updating our residential program design in order to make it person-centered and HCBS compliant. This funding request is focused on making accessibility accommodations to our physical plant so residents may have easier community access, thereby supporting greater community integration, choices, and individual rights.

HCBS CONCEPT BUDGET	\$85,000.00
Vendor Name	CLIMB, Inc
Vendor Number(s)	H05731

	Year 1 Budget			Year 2 Budget		Total
	Wage and Benefits	FTE	Annual Cost	FTE	Annual Cost	Cost
<b>Personnel (wage + benefits)</b>						
Position Description			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Position Description			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Position Description			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Position Description			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
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Position Description			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Position Description			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Operating expenses</b>						
					\$ -	\$ -
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Operating Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>						
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
Administrative Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Capital expenses</b>						
Architect			\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
City permits			\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Ramp construction			\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
Capital Subtotal			\$ 85,000		\$ -	\$ 85,000
<b>Total Concept Cost</b>			<b>\$ 85,000</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 85,000</b>

See Attachment F for budget details and restrictions