



SOCIAL REC GRANTS FAQs

General Information

1. What is a regional center?

Regional centers provide assessments, determine eligibility for services, and offer case management services. Regional centers also develop, purchase, and coordinate the services in each person's Individual Program Plan. Additional regional center information may be found here: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/>.

2. What is regional center eligibility?

To be eligible for services, a person must have a disability that begins before the individual's 18th birthday that is expected to continue indefinitely and present a substantial disability. Qualifying conditions include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and other disabling conditions as defined in [Section 4512\(a\)\(1\) of the California Welfare and Institutions Code](#).

Eligibility is established through diagnosis and assessment performed by [regional centers](#).

3. What is the vision and purpose of the Grants for Enhanced Community Integration for Children and Adolescents?

Our vision is that children and adolescents with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will develop social relationships from opportunities provided by integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs.

4. Who may apply for Grants for Enhanced Community Integration for Children and Adolescents?

Grant applicants may include, but are not limited to:

- Community based organizations
- Religious organizations (e.g., churches, synagogues)
- Private recreational businesses or studios (e.g., karate schools, ballet studios, art studios)
- YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts
- County and city parks and other recreational entities
- Public and private camps



- After-school programs

5. What is a community-based organization (CBO)?

For the purposes of this grant, a CBO is defined as a public or private nonprofit, or private for-profit organization that is representative of and advocates for a community or significant segments of a community.

6. Can regional center vendors apply for social rec grants?

Yes. However, grant projects may not include services or activities that the vendor already provides through purchase of services.

7. Is there a maximum approval amount (cap) for each grant proposal?

No. However, each regional center has been allocated a specific amount of funds. Reference RC Funding Allocation ([ATTACHMENT B](#)). Each grant applicant will list the dollar amount requested to fund their grant proposals on the Grant Budget Form ([ATTACHMENT D](#)). Regional centers will review grant proposals and recommend a dollar amount for approval to the DDS.

8. Who should I contact if I need technical assistance about social rec grants?

Grant applicants should contact the Regional Center Designee, which are identified in the Regional Center Directory ([ATTACHMENT I](#)).

Regional Center Designees: Please email SocialRecGrants@dds.ca.gov for technical assistance or attend a DDS Office Hours. Email for more information.

Grant Proposals and Budget Form

9. Who do I contact if I have questions about writing or submitting a grant proposal?

Grant Applicants: Contact your local Regional Center's Designee identified in the Regional Center Directory ([ATTACHMENT I](#)).

Regional Center Designee: Please email SocialRecGrants@dds.ca.gov for technical assistance or attend a DDS Office Hours. Email for more information.

10. Who do I submit my grant proposal to?

Each grant applicant must submit a grant proposal to the Regional Center Designee. Reference the Regional Center Directory ([ATTACHMENT I](#)) for Regional Center Designee contact information. To find your local Regional Center Designee reference the Regional Center Directory ([ATTACHMENT J](#)).

11. What is a grant proposal?

A grant proposal is a description of the proposed grant project and its cost. This is the



information that will be used to evaluate the project and determine if it will be approved. A grant proposal must include a completed Letter of Intent ([ATTACHMENT C](#)) and a Grant Budget Form ([ATTACHMENT D](#)). Instructions are available on each form.

12. What is the grant proposal due date?

Grant proposal submission deadlines will be set by each regional center. Please review the regional centers' Request for Proposal website posting for submission deadlines. You may also contact the Regional Center's Designee ([ATTACHMENT I](#)) for specific details.

13. Can I apply for a grant if I have a social and recreational program that provides activities for individuals with developmental disabilities?

Yes. The grant proposal should include one or more project type that will enhance and create opportunities for integration of children and adolescents with and without I/DD. Grant funds may not be used for programs and activities that are funded by other governmental funding sources.

14. Can grant applicants work with more than one regional center?

Yes. For grant projects that will serve individuals from multiple neighboring regional centers, a lead regional center must be identified in the Letter of Intent ([ATTACHMENT C](#)). For example, a grant applicant can partner with neighboring regional centers that have catchment areas within the Los Angeles area. The lead regional center will disburse funds to the grantee and progress reports will be submitted to the lead regional center. Separate grant proposals will be required if the grant project will serve individuals from non-neighboring regional centers.

15. Where do I find the Budget Form?

The Budget Form is located on the DDS Website. ([ATTACHMENT D](#)).

16. What does the Budget Form entail?

The Budget Form consists of grant applicants' cost projections for personnel, operating, and administration expenses for the grant project. Please see the Budget Form's ([ATTACHMENT D](#)) tab titled Budget Details and Documentations for further information and examples.

17. How will I know that my grant proposal was received?

You should receive confirmation from your Regional Center's Designee. You may also explore the regional center's request for proposal posting for information about follow up after grant proposal submissions.

18. What are Personnel Expenses?

Personnel expenses are costs that fulfill the goals of the grant project. Employee costs must be directly related to the activities of the project. Personnel expenses may include salaries, wages and benefits. Please see the tab titled Budget Details and Documentations on the Budget Form ([ATTACHMENT D](#)) for further information and examples.



19. What are Operating Expenses?

Operating expenses are costs incurred as a result of activities performed as a service fulfilling the goals of the grant project. Please see the tab titled Budget Details and Documentations on the Budget Form ([ATTACHMENT D](#)) for further information and examples.

20. What are Indirect Costs/ Administrative Expenses?

Administrative expenses are indirect costs related to the general management (i.e. activities for the direction and control of the grant project) that benefit the completion of grant outcomes. Please see the tab titled Budget Details and Documentations on the on the Budget Form ([ATTACHMENT D](#)) for further information and examples.

Individuals Served

21. Are individuals served limited to regional center consumers and their families?

Individuals served include persons served by a regional center who have an intellectual and developmental disability. Reference Social Rec Grant Definition of Key Terms ([ATTACHMENT H](#)).

Project Types & Terms

22. May a grant proposal include more than one project type?

Yes. Grant proposals may include one or more project type. Only one Letter of Intent ([ATTACHMENT C](#)) and Budget Form ([ATTACHMENT D](#)) are required per grant proposal.

23. How do I determine which project type(s) best fits my grant proposal?

The DDS has created eight different project types that describe broad categories of projects that the social rec grants will fund. Descriptions of the project types and examples are provided in the Project Types and Standard Outcome Measures ([ATTACHMENT G](#)). You may also reach out to your local Regional Center Designee ([ATTACHMENT I](#)) to discuss projects that will meet the needs of the community the regional center serves.

24. Can an applicant apply for several project types in one grant proposal? For example, a Boys and Girls Club is applying for staff training, but they also need a vendorization coordinator to help them through the vendorization process. Would this be one project or 2?

In this example, the Boys and Girls Club may submit a grant proposal that includes the project type "Education and Training". If the Boys and Girls Club would like to benefit from the "Vendorization Assistance" project type, the entity would have to work with a grantee that offers "Vendorization Assistance". If the Boys and Girls Club would like to offer "Vendorization Assistance" to other entities interested in becoming regional center vendors, then they would include in their grant proposal a "Vendorization Assistance" project type in addition to their "Education and Training" project type. Grant applicants that want to assist other entities in



becoming vendors must apply for the “Vendorization Assistance” project type in their grant proposals.

25. How do I determine standard and supplemental outcome measures for my grant proposal?

Please reference Project Types and Standard Outcome Measures ([ATTACHMENT G](#)) to identify the outcome measures associated with the identified project types and the amount requested in the grant proposal. Depending on the amount of the approved grant project, grantees will report on standard outcome measures including specific project type outcome measures.

26. Can the grant project term be less than 8 months?

No. All grant projects will be approved for an 8-month term. Grantees will also be required to submit progress reports during the 8-month term.

Grant Proposal Request Form (GPRF)

27. What is a Regional Center Grant Proposal Request Form? Who submits the form? When is it due?

The Grant Proposal Request Form is the document regional centers will use to submit all grant proposals to the DDS. Regional centers will list the scores for each grant proposal and identify the proposals recommended for approval ([ATTACHMENT E](#)). Each regional center will complete a GPRF and submit all required documentation by January 31, 2023, in the format provided by the DDS. Packets will be submitted to SocialRecGrants@dds.ca.gov.

28. Do regional center recommendations need to add up to the total amount allocated to the specific regional center?

No. However, regional centers have been allocated a specific amount ([ATTACHMENT B](#)). Regional centers are to score and submit recommendations that align with the social rec grant vision, priorities, and regional center’s catchment area need for social and recreational programs. All grant proposals must be submitted to DDS for review and final approval.

29. Does the regional center submit grant proposals based on priority?

No. Regional centers will score all grant proposals, based on standard scoring criteria. Regional centers will submit the grant proposals and their scores to DDS. DDS will make final determination on which grant proposals will be funded. All grant proposals received must be submitted to DDS for final approval.

30. Is there a limit number of awards per regional center?

No. There is no limit to the number of grants a regional center will be awarded. However, each regional center has been allocated a specific amount of funding for Social Rec Grants. The combined budgets for grants awarded to individual regional centers may not exceed the regional center’s allocation.



Review and Notification

31. What does the grant proposal review process consist of?

Regional centers will score grant proposals according to social rec grant goals, priorities and the need for inclusive social and recreational programs within the regional center's catchment area. All grant proposals will be submitted to the DDS for review by January 31, 2023. Grant proposals that fulfill the requirements outlined in the social rec guidelines will be strongly considered along with regional center funding allocations. DDS will inform regional centers on or before February 28, 2023 of awarded grant projects.

32. How will I be notified if my grant proposal is awarded?

DDS will notify regional centers of awarded grant projects on or before February 28, 2023 via email. Regional Centers will notify all grant applicants of the DDS's determination.

Standard and Supplemental Outcome Measures and other Reporting

33. What is the regional centers deadline for billing the DDS?

Final invoices from regional centers are due to the DDS by January 31, 2024.

34. What is the DDS deadline for encumbering funds?

The DDS must encumber ARPA funds by March 31, 2024.

Vendors & Vendorization

35. What is a vendor?

"Vendor" and "provider" are the words used to describe the community of professionals who provide direct services to people with developmental disabilities through contracts with California's network of 21 community-based, non-profit regional centers. Before providers can provide and be reimbursed for services, they must go through an approval and contracting process with their local regional center(s). More information may be found here:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/>.

36. How to become a regional center vendor?

Individuals or entities that wish to provide paid services within the developmental disabilities system must first obtain approval to do so from a regional center. "Vendorization" is the term used to describe the process for becoming an approved or "vendored" service provider. Vendorization is the process for identification, selection, and utilization of service providers. The vendorization process allows regional centers to verify, prior to the provision of services to consumers, that an applicant for vendor approval meets all applicable requirements. Applicants who meet the requirements are "vendorized" and assigned a service code and a unique vendor identification number.



More information can be found here: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/vendorization-process/>. Please work with the Regional Center Designee to discuss the path for becoming a regional center vendor prior to the end of the social rec grant cycle. Please refer to the Regional Center Directory ([ATTACHMENT I](#)) to identify the Regional Center Designee.

37. If the grant leads to “vendorization” which service codes would be assigned in said “vendorization?”

The regional center will identify the service code that reflects the service provided by the new vendor. Additionally, the regional center will use the sub-code for social recreation activities “SRA”. For more information, regional centers should reference the correspondence provided to regional center executive directors on February 8, 2022 titled “SUB-CODE FOR SOCIAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES”.

38. Could the grant applicant be the organization that is seeking vendorization via the grant?

Yes. The grant applicant should discuss with the Regional Center Designee next steps to become a vendor. If the grant applicant becomes vendored during the grant cycle, the new vendor may not receive funding via purchase of services for a similar project type until the grant cycle is complete.

39. Are these grants meant to help NEW vendors open new programs or to expand services into other catchment areas?

Social rec grants are intended to increase the pool of vendors that provide integrated social and recreational programs. The grants are available to existing approved vendors and to entities that are not already vendored. The grants will fund expansion of existing programs, as well as the creation of brand new programs.

40. Can businesses that are currently providing services to clients without I/DD apply for Social Rec Grants?

Yes. Grant applicants that provide social and recreational activities for the general population are encouraged to apply for Social Rec Grants in order to provide inclusive programs and activities for children and adolescents with I/DD.

41. Can a regional center vendor apply for a social rec grant?

Yes. However, a vendor may not receive grant funding for a service it is already contracted to provide.

