

Request for Proposals
Redwood Coast Regional Center
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

Realizing Interdependence Success & Empowerment (RISE)
Client Leadership Team
Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) – Self-Advocacy Service

Redwood Coast Regional Center is one of 21 locally-based nonprofit private corporations that contract with the State of California to develop and coordinate community resources and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Redwood Coast Regional Center serves Californians who reside in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties.

Our group is called Realizing Interdependence Success & Empowerment (RISE). We are a group of self-advocates who make decisions about what would help us and other people with developmental disabilities, and who should help us do what we decide. This includes deciding how to spend money for HCBS implementation funds FY 21/22 & FY 22/23.

We decided to spend most of the money on self-advocacy projects, like peer coaching, workshops led by us, self-advocates making the decisions about what makes services good, sharing our experiences through skits, and building community together. Some of this will be through community learning events. We also decided to keep having RISE meetings to make sure that we know how these projects are going and keep learning from each other.

We agree all of the events we have need to be accessible to the people who come (and to everyone whenever possible).

We support spending money on any or all of these important things. Many of these projects will require support to accomplish (people will be paid to help us make them happen), and we want to choose who does that, too.

Goal:

The money is for helping people (RCRC clients) have good lives in the community, like being safe and having real choices. Self-advocacy is an important way to do this! Self-advocacy is broad, and includes learning about and being supported to have choices in all areas of our lives.

The purpose of the project is to develop a service to support self-advocacy in Del Norte, Lake, Humboldt and/or Mendocino Counties.

Funding:

FY 21/22 Up to \$199,568.13 available to be completed by June 30, 2024.

FY 22/23 Up to \$79,201 available to be completed by June 30, 2025.

Projects:

All projects will ensure access, including language translation, physical and/or virtual accessibility and plain language! Elements of service may include all, or parts, of the following:

Self-Advocacy

- Peer coaching
 - groups (peer support groups)
 - Theatre troupe (skits for change – videos)
 - 1-on-1
- Client-led workshops for Direct Support Professionals, RCRC, and others
- Client-led Quality Assurance activities (inspecting licensed homes)
 - Quality Assurance tool / using RISE to develop Quality Assurance tools
- Community-building activities by advocates for everyone
 - may include establishing/restarting People First chapters
 - Includes funds for community event costs in each county
- May include local and state advocacy
- May include interpersonal and sexual self-advocacy

All interested parties are required to schedule a presentation about their proposed project with the RCRC RISE Client Leadership Team. All presentations scheduled by the deadline (3/31/2023) will be reviewed by a team of RISE Client Leadership evaluators. In the event that more than four (4) presentations are scheduled, additional dates will be decided by the RISE Client Leadership team.

What to consider in your presentation:

You will be presenting to the RISE Client Leadership Team. The RISE Client Leadership Team is made up of people receiving services who have specific experience and knowledge about self-advocacy. We are passionate about making sure people with developmental disabilities have as many rights and choices as any other person. We recognize the importance of having excellent support staff who facilitate meaningful access to the work of making our vision (a vision of supports directed by people with a range of developmental disabilities and life experiences) a reality. We appreciate your interest in working with us, and look forward to your presentation. You will have 20 minutes for your presentation and 10 minutes for question and answers.

Tips for your presentation:

- Use plain language to describe your ideas. Here is some guidance about plain language:
<https://uada.edu/employees/division-accessibility/documents/plain-language.aspx>
- Use concrete and specific examples when possible.
- Think about how you will support client decision-making in your role as a service provider. Here is one example of a detailed facilitator's guide for People First, a self-advocacy group we respect, though each group and service will be different:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5823ce091b631b02ca6b6f60/t/58240280e3df28edd9e9f79e/1478754947307/PF+Helper+Book+Final+Printer.pdf>

Suggested topics and questions to answer in your presentation:

- What is your mission statement?
- What do you see as a positive outcome for your service? How will you work to achieve it?
- How will you approach different learning styles, be engaging, and build relationships with the people you support? These strategies should be reflected in how you deliver your presentation to us, as much as possible.
- What are some examples of your work with self-advocates, or your work supporting people to reach their goals?
- What will people do when they participate in your service? How will they give you feedback about what's working?

Above information needs to be submitted with the request to schedule presentations to:

Sierra Braggs, CMS Waiver & Employment Specialist Manager sbraggs@redwoodcoastrc.org

TIMELINE:

DATE	ACTIVITY
5/31/23	<p>Submit request to schedule presentation and supporting information (below) via email to sbraggs@redwoodcoastrc.org</p> <p><u>Presentations MUST include the following items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify what elements of the self-advocacy project you will be providing• Will your service be one time funding or will you develop a service that may continue beyond the grant funding through an RCRC vendorization• Identify where services will be provided (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and/or Mendocino Counties).• Amount of funds requested for each fiscal year• Timeline for the project• Equity and Diversity: A statement outlining the applicant's plan to serve diverse populations, including, culturally and linguistically diverse populations; examples of the applicant's commitment to addressing the needs of those diverse populations; and any additional information that the applicant deems relevant to issues of equity and diversity.• Zero Tolerance Policy for Client Abuse and Neglect: A statement that describes the steps the applicant will take to ensure client safety and to reduce the risk of individuals supported from being abused.
TBD	Presentation including Questions & Answer to RISE Client Leadership Team (Presentations will be recorded on Zoom)
6/30/23	RFP Awarded

Before beginning work the RFP or if there are any questions regarding this RFP, it is strongly recommended that interested parties contact the Client Advocate for their area:

Lake & Mendocino Counties:

Alex Bland 707-462-3832 ext. 280
abland@redwoodcoastrc.org

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties:

Elizabeth Hassler 707-445-0893 ext. 321
ehassler@redwoodcoastrc.org

For Technical Assistance please contact the CMS Waiver & Employment Specialist Manager for your area:

Lake & Mendocino Counties:

Cindy Claus-John 707-462-3832 ext. 224
cclaus-john@redwoodcoastrc.org

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties:

Sierra Braggs 707-445-0893 ext. 348
sbraggs@redwoodcoastrc.org

Contracts:

If a proposal for self-advocacy services is selected, the applicant will be required to enter into contract with RCRC.

All applicants awarded funds for a project will be required to report monthly to RISE Client Leadership Team progress on the project development.

If the project is for one time funding a service design will not be required.

RCRC reserves the right to withdraw this Request for Proposals (RFP) at any time without prior notice. Further, RCRC makes no representation that any agreement will be awarded to any applicant responding to this RFP. RCRC reserves the right to reject the proposal of any respondent who, in the opinion of RCRC, is not responsible or has previously failed to perform properly, or is not in a position to operate within the service design.