

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)

Support for Self-Advocates to Participate in Quality Assurance

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 23/24.

We decided to spend most of the money on self-advocacy projects, like peer coaching, workshops led by us, self-advocates participating in 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 projects we fund 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 support the development of Quality Assurance teams to include participation by self-advocates in Humboldt, Lake, Del Norte, and/or Mendocino Counties to visit RCRC clients receiving services from vendors in congregate settings (and some non-congregate settings) or Family Home Agencies to determine if services provided meet the Home & Community Based Settings Final Rule criteria as follows by supporting clients to:

1. Access the Community
2. Have their choice of service setting

3. Have a right to be treated well
4. Maximize their independence
5. Have their choice of Services and Supports

Residential Settings:

6. Have the same rights as any other tenant
7. Have privacy in their living unit
8. Be in control of their own schedule and have access to food
9. Have a right to visitors
10. Live in a home that is physically accessible to them

Funding:

FY 23/24 Up to \$359,887.00 available to be completed by August 31, 2024.

Projects:

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

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 (2/9/2024) 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 20 minutes for questions 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 Quality Assurance team member. 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 project? 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 project? 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
2/9/2024	<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 client-led Quality Assurance project you will be providing• Identify where project will operate (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and/or Mendocino Counties).• 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.
2/14/2024	You will be scheduled to present on one of these dates at
2/21/2024	4-6 PM Presentation including Questions & Answer to RISE Client Leadership Team
2/28/2024	(Presentations will be recorded on Zoom)
3/1/2024	RFP Awarded

Before beginning work on 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 Sierra Braggs, CMS Waiver & Employment Specialist Manager at 707-445-0893 ext. 348 or sbraggs@redwoodcoastrc.org

Contracts:

If a proposal for support for self-advocate participation in Quality Assurance 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.

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.