

TAILORED DAY SERVICE: BECAUSE ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

Association of Regional Center Agencies
and
California Disability Services Association

What is TDS?

- In short, a cost savings alternative to traditional day program services which provides highly-customized training to individuals in the areas of employment, volunteer placement, post-secondary education, and community integration
- Created in 2011 during the California budget process
- [Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.21 \(a\)-\(b\)](#)
- The goal is greater customization of services while also saving the state money
- Less service hours are typically authorized

Service Customization

- Further the development or maintenance of employment and volunteer activities
- Self-direct services
- Pursue postsecondary education
- Increase integration and inclusion

Before You Begin, Think About

- Individualized Service Goal
- Current Status
- Service Design/Activities
- Health/Safety Concerns
- Proposed Support Hours
- Proposed Rate
- Outcomes Desired

TDS Rate Setting Rules

- A daily or hourly rate and maximum units of service design that does not exceed the equivalent cost of four days per week of the vendor's current rate (80% the cost of five days per week of service)

OR

- A rate and maximum units of service design that does not exceed the equivalent cost of four-fifths of the hours of the vendor's current rate, if the vendor has an hourly rate

Rate Setting Strategy Example

- Service Code 510 program (1:3 ratio) with a client seeking 1:1 TDS for coordination of volunteer activity and/or community college support at a satellite campus.
- Current daily rate at \$58.87 per day. The cost of five days per week of service equals \$294.35. 80% of that cost is \$235.48.
- Each day of typical service delivery, the program is reimbursed a maximum of \$176.61 per staff person, should the staff be serving a full ratio of service recipients ($\$58.87 \times 3 = \176.61).

Rate Setting Strategy Example

Continued

- Divide the maximum daily billable total for a full ratio (\$176.61) by the number of daily hours of service (for example, 6) presents you with a maximum billable hourly rate for the service ($\$176.61 / 6$). In this example, the hourly total arrived at would be \$29.44.

Rate Setting Strategy Example

Continued

- As \$235.48 represents 80% of the cost of 5 days per week of attendance at the program for the individual to be served, and this total divided by the hourly rate of \$29.44 equals 8 hours per week, the vendor could be authorized to provide up to 8 hours per week of 1:1 TDS at the calculated maximum hourly rate.
- This rate would reimburse the vendor at the same rate per staff hour as they would receive for typical service delivery.

Things to Keep in Mind

- The weekly cost cap for service remains the same, whether TDS is administered at 1:1 or any other ratio, so service ratio determines maximum service hours.
- Median rate law impacts the ability for Regional Centers to have the same flexibility in rate determination with 055/063 day program operators as they would with DDS temporary rate providers ([Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4691.9](#)).

Service Provider Considerations

General Structure

- The Tailored Day Service may only be offered in lieu of a traditional and/or look-alike day service, Work Activity Program and/or Supported Employment and at no more than 80 % of the weekly cost of the service it is replacing. The service should be in one of the following areas:
 - Employment
 - Volunteering
 - Post-secondary education
 - Community Integration

Service Provider Considerations

Service Codes

- Existing law makes it most likely that this service will be done under a traditional service code, 505, 510, 515 versus miscellaneous service codes, such as 055 and 063.
- The rate-setting methodology would make using WAP or SEP service codes impractical as few hours would be allocated for support using the calculation.

Service Provider Considerations

Program Design

- A program design addendum for each of the four support areas seems the easiest and simplest way for a service provider to tell the Regional Center and potential consumers what areas of support they may be able to expect, as well as establish a rate and maximum number of monthly hours of service that can be provided.

Service Provider Considerations

Program Design

Continued

- A program design addendum in each support area allows the service provider to give entrance and exit criteria that deal with support levels, hours of service, and that the individual must have alternative supports for hours when the service is not being offered.
- This allows the Regional Center and the Service Provider to agree to a rate and link to an existing vendor number and provides the level of service that the individual might receive.

Service Provider Considerations

Individual Implementation

- The IDT should meet and discuss the particular needs of the individual and whether those needs be met within the service hours that are provided by the program design.
- The service provider may develop a template for the services, so a simple Individual Service Plan can be developed focusing on the identified supports needed for success.

Regional Center Considerations

Who Would Benefit?

- Individuals who are developing skills and/or maintenance in the areas of employment, volunteer placement, pursuing post-secondary education, and in the areas of community integration. Additional areas of service can include self-employment and micro-enterprise supports
- Individuals who are looking for a more flexible schedule with fewer program hours
- Designed to be a training service, not supervision

Regional Center Considerations

Provider Selection

- Service providers choose to provide support in employment, volunteer placement, post-secondary education, and/or community integration
- Important to match individual goals with service provider's chosen focus area(s)

Regional Center Considerations

Service Limitations

- TDS expenditures are capped at 80% of the cost of traditional service, so fewer hours can be authorized.
- If someone participates in TDS, they cannot participate in another regional center-funded day or vocational service.
- Generic resources such as education and the Department of Rehabilitation must still be accessed before TDS is approved.

Regional Center Considerations

TDS or Employment Services

- Supported Employment for support in the areas of job development, placement, on-the-job support, and/or job retention
- TDS for developing vocational skills and gaining employment experience while working in some of the other category areas
- DOR offers greater flexibility in the number of service hours than TDS.