

Self-Determination Program (SDP): What can or cannot be paid for and why?

The following information is intended to assist a participant and their team with the most common questions about SDP goods and services to date; it is not all-inclusive. For reference, the more comprehensive list of service descriptions can be found [here](#). If you have questions, please contact your regional center.

| Goods and Services | Not Allowed, Allowed or Available: Not Included in Budget Calculation/Spending Plan | Why? | What does this mean? |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| HOME AND LIVING EXPENSES | | | |
| Housing access supports necessary to implement their individual program plan (IPP) | Allowed | Federal Waiver Service Code 314 | Individual housing transition services, such as finding a place to live and helping with the tenant application Individual housing and tenancy sustaining services, such as helping the participant with tenant/landlord disputes or helping with recertifying housing |
| Disability-related environmental accessibility adaptation necessary to implement their IPP | Allowed | Federal Waiver Service Code 356 | Adaptations to a person's home related to their disability, ensuring their health, welfare, and safety, or increasing the individual's independence within their home (for example, a ramp, grab bars, door opener) |
| Room and board | Not Allowed | Prohibited in Federal Waiver Programs | Rent, groceries, meals, hotel stays cannot be purchased directly (for example, paying a respite worker cash) and then billed to a Financial Management Service (FMS) agency for reimbursement |
| Adaptations or improvements to the home that are of general utility and are not related to the disability-related needs of the participant | Not Allowed | Prohibited in Federal Waiver Programs | Housing repair/renovations unrelated to disability needs and typical items that are the responsibility of the homeowner or landlord (for example, aesthetic kitchen remodel, swimming pool, electrician or plumbing services, roofing repairs, HVAC repair, updating appliances) |

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|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| VEHICLES | | | |
| Disability-related vehicle modifications and adaptations and upkeep and maintenance of these items | Allowed | Federal Waiver Service Code 377 | Adaptations or alterations to an automobile or van that is the participant's primary means of transportation in order to accommodate the disability needs of the participant (for example, lifts, ramps, hand brakes) Upkeep and maintenance of those modifications to an automobile or van that is the participant's primary means of transportation in order to accommodate the disability needs of the participant |
| Purchase or lease of a vehicle | Not Allowed | Prohibited in Federal Waiver Programs | Purchase/lease of a vehicle for transportation is not allowable. |
| Adaptations or improvements to a vehicle unrelated to a disability-related need | Not Allowed | Prohibited in Federal Waiver Programs | Upgrades or improvements to a vehicle that are unrelated to disability needs (for example, adding new rims or new paint) |
| Regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of a vehicle | Not Allowed | Prohibited in Federal Waiver Programs | Repairs or general maintenance to a vehicle that are unrelated to disability needs (for example, new tires, replacing the battery in the vehicle, oil changes) |

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|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| COMMUNITY INTEGRATION | | | |
| Community integration supports necessary to implement their IPP | Allowed | Federal Waiver Service Code 331 | Community integration supports that help the participant attain or maintain their maximum level of functioning, interdependence and independence and/or increase and improve self-help, socialization, communication. These services may include socialization and community awareness, communication skills, visual, auditory and tactile awareness and perception experiences, and self-advocacy skills. They can reinforce skills or lessons taught in school, therapy or other settings. Services may include art and recreation programs if such services assist the participant “through therapeutic and/or physical activities” (for example, exercise class in the park, swim class at a public pool, painting at a local art studio); continuing education classes to help the participant explore interests or improve academic skills or complete a high school equivalency; peer mentoring, mobility services; friendship and relationship building. |
| Goods and services that are purchased for entertainment (for example, amusement park, concert tickets or recreation that provides no therapeutic and/or physical benefit) | Not Allowed | Prohibited in Federal Waiver Programs | Purely recreational activities that do not meet the disability-related needs of the participant and/or their IPP goals and outcomes (for example, entrance tickets for amusement park or similar for the consumer) The following goods and services cannot be paid for: hobby supplies, television, cable access, DVDs. |

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|--|---|--|--|
| GOODS AND SERVICES OUTSIDE OF SPENDING PLAN | | | |
| Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) Restoration | Available: Not Included in Budget Calculation/Spending Plan | State of California, Department of Developmental Services (DDS) policy | This is a “pass through” service, meaning this is a California cash benefit that is paid to the person through the regional center. The regional center will continue to fund this service outside of the spending plan through service code 065 for the individual while participating in SDP. |
| Competitive Integrated Employment | Available: Not Included in Budget Calculation/Spending Plan | State of California, DDS policy | Eligible incentives for Competitive Integrated Employment will be paid to service providers outside of the spending plan for the individual participating in SDP. |
| Paid Internship Program | Available: Not Included in Budget Calculation/Spending Plan | State of California, DDS policy | Eligible Paid Internship Program wages will be paid outside of the spending plan for the individual participating in SDP. |
| Costs for insurance co-payments, deductibles or co-insurance | Available: Not included in Budget Calculation/Spending Plan | State of California, DDS policy | Costs for insurance co-payments, deductibles or co-insurance will be paid outside of the spending plan for the individual participating in SDP. |
| Rental assistance, consistent with Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 4689(i) | Available: Not included in Budget Calculation/Spending Plan | State of California, DDS policy | Cost of rental assistance allowed by W&I Code section 4689(i) will be paid outside of the spending plan for the individual participating in SDP. |