



Proposed Guidelines for TCRC Supported Living Services Questions and Answers

I am worried about losing my freedom of choice because of the proposed changes to SLS. Will I still be able to choose and make decisions for myself?

YES. Nothing will change our person centered approach to assessing your supports. We will always listen and consider your goals.

I have been receiving SLS and I really like it – can I continue to live where I'm living now?

Yes. The new guidelines will consider each person's situation independently and they do not require anyone to move.

Do I have to get a roommate?

This is a personal choice. Some people like having a house mate and others don't. Shared housing works for some people on limited budgets because it's more economical. Some people like the social aspect of having somebody else around. You choose what works best for you socially and economically.

I want to live in the community, but I can't afford rent on my own. Can I be served in SLS?

You can be served by SLS if you have sufficient financial resources to do so. You will need to have financial resources through personal funds or subsidies such as Section 8 or Public Housing to make it work. Your planning team can help you determine if it can work for you. Being flexible with services and living situations (house mate?) may help. The regional center cannot subsidize your rent without an exception approved by the TCRC Executive Director. An exemption may be approved for up to six months, with quarterly review.

Will TCRC continue to assist me in finding and maintaining a living arrangement in the Community?

YES, the changes to SLS are meant to create manageable changes that will save money overall and ensure that TCRC is following the law. Our tri-counties area is an expensive area for housing. It takes careful management of financial and housing resources to make it work. We are using new guidelines so that we can ensure an enduring and appropriate level of housing for those that need it.

I currently require and receive 24/7 support. Will I continue to receive this level of support?

You will receive the support you require. However, the new proposed guidelines require that we confirm that you are getting services that best support your needs and comply with law or regulation. Your planning team will work with you to ensure you get the services you need. You may prefer to spend time with family, friends, or in community activities on your own without SLS staff.

Do the proposed changes mean that the number of hours in SLS would change for me?

It could. The goal is not to decrease hours of support; the type of hours might change over time. The amount of hours for particular kinds of support may change; they could go up or down. Your planning team will assess your needs and progress in your educational plan then work with you to attain your goals. Technology resources may be helpful to you, as well. Generic and public resources could be applicable, too.

It takes me a long time to learn and get to my goals with Training & Habilitation support. Can I continue getting support while I'm still learning and making Progress?

YES. Your Planning Team will work with you and your service provider to decide how you can reach your goals. When you have attained your goal, you can change that activity time to something of your choosing. In case you have challenges that make it difficult or impossible to attain your goal, your support may change to support the goal in a different way – from Training & Habilitation to Personal Support, for example.

I have behavioral challenges from time to time – can I still receiving SLS?

YES. The Planning Team will work with you and your service provider to determine the best plan to manage these challenges as you are receiving SLS.

I cannot speak, but I know I want to participate in SLS – Can I still be considered for SLS?

YES. The Planning Team will work with you and your circle of support to understand your choices.

I have multiple medical conditions, can I still be considered for SLS?

YES, your Planning Team will review your services and work with you to create SLS that will meet your needs. If you do not wish to continue to receive SLS, the Planning Team will consider your options.

Are rates changing for providers?

Some providers will have new rates for new sub codes added to their contracts. The providers may be paid less for some sub codes because the payment for certain services will need to match the type of service provided. If a person completes training for a goal and receives Personal Support instead of Training & Habilitation for that goal, the rate paid for Personal Support hours is less than for training hours. Creating shared staffing may also reduce reimbursement. Many providers are already using both of these sub codes and billing appropriately. TCRC will work with our providers to create a fair agreement.

What are the proposed changes?

There are three main areas that are proposed for change:

DECIDING TO RECEIVE SLS SERVICES

- The Planning Team will confirm that a person is willing to participate and chooses services
- The Planning Team will confirm that the person has an appropriate monthly budget, and a place to live.

REVIEWING THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- An individual's progress for goals in Training/Habilitation will be monitored quarterly – after a year with one goal, the Planning Team will decide if the goal is completed along with other goals that might be created.

SHARING RESOURCES

- Sharing of staff will be encouraged.
- Sharing a house with a house mate will be encouraged.