

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rules CONCEPT FORM

Vendor name	Autistry Studios
Vendor number(s)	PG2514
Primary regional center	Golden Gate Regional Center
Service type(s)	Adult Day Program
Service code(s)	055
Number of consumers currently serving and current staff to consumer ratio.	14 consumers (20 by end of 2019), 1:2 staff to consumer
Have you or the organization you work with been a past recipient of HCBS Funding?	No
Please provide a brief description of the service/ setting that includes what a typical day consists of and how services are currently provided; include barriers to compliance with the HCBS rules.	<p>The Autistry Comprehensive Adult Program (ACAP) is a 5-day/week program providing day services for adults on the autism spectrum.</p> <p>A typical school day (usually two days a week) begins at the community college where the consumers meet their classmates and join their mentors (our staff). They attend regular college classes. The afternoon is spent doing homework and/or physical exercise (yoga, brisk walk to the park, etc.). Non-school day activities (usually two days a week) include, meals (planning, shopping at local stores, food preparation, and clean up), physical activities and weekly cultural outings to museums and other places of interest.</p> <p>Barriers to HCBS compliance are the restricted range of choices the program can currently offer to consumers, our ability to offer purely vocational placements is severely limited, and our ability to offer appropriate services to consumers who cannot attend college classes is limited.</p>
Identify which HCBS federal requirements this concept addresses that are currently out of compliance.	<p>Federal Requirement #1: ACAP consumers currently spend roughly 30% of their time at the studio. Our project concept develops two (growing to four) new community venues with wide range of vocational training, employment opportunities, and community integration.</p> <p>Federal Requirement #2: Our project concept includes training of staff in Person-Centered Thinking and the development of new processes which will help us collect data about our consumers' individual preferences, training</p>

**Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rules
CONCEPT FORM**

	<p>our consumers in self advocacy and adding this data to their IPPs and be reflected in our ISPs.</p> <p>Federal Requirement #4: The main goal of this project concept is to increase the variety of client choices, opportunities, and training available. The project concept simultaneously implements a formal client-centered process to identify client needs and preferences as well as a greatly increased menu of options to enhance autonomy, and teach self-advocacy leading to greater independence.</p>
<p>Narrative/description of the concept; include justification for the funding request and explain how the concept would achieve proposed outcomes.</p>	<p>We have identified two nearby 501(c)(3) nonprofits: The Square Peg Foundation at Cadence Farm in Sonoma, and the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista Junction, Solano county. Both organizations have very significant manpower needs and long lists of projects, routine work, and public service that they need help with. Program development with these organizations to date has been validated but is unfunded and we have been limited to slowly building a program in our very limited spare time. We see HCBS Compliance funding as a way to help complete development and thereby vastly improve our compliance with federal requirements.</p> <p>Partnerships with these organizations will provide opportunities for our consumers to become full members of the volunteer communities and de facto staff at these facilities serving the public. They will participate in activities that support the missions of these organizations. These activities will give our consumers meaningful real work to perform and opportunities to build professional relationships and friendships outside of traditional programming.</p> <p>Our funding request includes outward and inward facing activities. The outward facing activities are funding our staff creating and organizing the robust volunteer and project management relationships at the two outside organizations needed to support our consumers at these organizations and ensure that they have appropriate, challenging, and fun opportunities. The inward facing activities are improving staff awareness of the HCBS Final Rules, person-centered thinking skills, and implementing them in our day to day programming. Adding processes and training enabling our consumers to better self-advocate. Adding processes to connect our consumers to activities they choose.</p> <p>How this concept achieves our goals: Limited choice in our program has been a significant obstacle to compliance with the federal requirements. The relationships with just these</p>

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rules CONCEPT FORM

	<p>two organizations dramatically increases the range of choices we can offer our consumers. Joining our consumers with the communities operating these organizations and the public-facing opportunities at the Railway Museum strongly enhance the community integration level of our program. At the same time, improving our processes so that we ensure that our consumers have all the tools and support to make informed decisions amongst the choices available.</p>
<p>Please describe your person-centered approach¹ in the concept development process; how did you involve the individuals for whom you provide services?</p>	<p>Autistry staff have consulted with our consumers regarding their personal life goals, their interests, and their needs. We have worked closely with our consumers to identify vocational and social interests. What we found was a vast array of interests but few opportunities. Our selection of Square Peg and the Railway Museum grew out of the excitement of our consumers when they visited these facilities, and this inspired us to reach out to these organizations. We have been discussing ideas around working at these organizations with our consumers and this is guiding our program design.</p>
<p>Does the concept address unmet service needs or service disparities? If so, how?</p>	<p>There is a severe unmet need for personally fulfilling vocational and learning opportunities in the community. Integrating our day program with the operations of existing organizations in the community builds a path to filling this need.</p>
<p>Estimated budget and timeline; identify all major costs and benchmarks — attachments are acceptable.</p>	<p>Budget: See Budget and Milestones attachment. Timeline: See Budget and Milestones attachment.</p>
<p>Total requested amount.</p>	<p>\$ 276,000 over two years</p>
<p>What is your plan for sustaining the benefits, value, and success of your project at the conclusion of 2018-19 HCBS Funding?</p>	<p>We plan on using existing staff familiar with our consumers 50% allocated. New staff will be hired to replace the 0.5FTE x3 of lost time. Once the programs are established the staff will resume nearly 100% of their time providing services to our consumers. The development of the relationships with eventually four outside organizations will allow us to service many more consumers than currently. This growth will also allow a relatively smooth transition to the timeline beyond this funding.</p>

¹ A person-centered approach emphasizes what is important to the individual who receives services and focuses on personal preferences, satisfaction, and choice of supports in accessing the full benefits of community living. For more information regarding person-centered practices, please visit www.nasdds.org/resource-library/person-centered-practices.