

Region 5 Systems

Network Management Policies

Effective: RGB 7/01/99

Revised: RGB 11/05/18

■ Community Support Consumer Flexible Funding Policy

Community support flex funds may be utilized to help obtain the resources necessary to meet identified treatment/rehabilitation needs that cannot be provided through other funding mechanisms or more traditional service provision modalities. Flex funds should be used strategically to put services and supports into place while the consumer and community support worker continue to work on the plan to sustain the service/support beyond the availability of flex funds.

Community Support flex funds are available to consumers who are financially eligible for Region 5 Systems' funding and authorized and enrolled in the service of Community Support through the Centralized Data System (CDS). The consumer's name must be documented on the Turn Around Document (TAD) for the Community Support for the month the expenditure was incurred. Individuals who receive Community Support through Medicaid **are not** eligible for flex funds.

Eligible flex fund categories include:

1. **Transportation**-may include gas or expenses to use the most economical form of public transportation to facilitate attending necessary treatment related appointments.
2. **Housing**-may include a one-time deposit, first month's rent, or unpaid rent that will aid the consumer in obtaining or keeping permanent housing.
3. **Utilities**-may be considered if necessary to prevent removal from existing housing. If a shut off notice has been issued the funds will be used to pay the amount needed to satisfy the shut off notice not the entire bill. Copies of the bill and shut-off notice must be included in the request for funds.
4. **Food**-may include food items that are identified as urgent and necessary in nature. Food banks, churches etc. should be utilized first.
5. **Clothing**-may include clothing that is identified as urgent and necessary in nature. Consumers should be directed to retailers where the most effective use of funds can be made i.e. thrift shops, discount stores.
6. **Emergencies**-may include expenses related to resolution of consumer crisis/emergency that is considered critical in maintaining the consumer's overall well-being and preventing admission to a higher level of care.
7. **Laboratory Work**-may include laboratory fees related to prescription medications.
8. **Psychiatric Medications**-may include prescribed medications not available through Prescription Assistance Programs, LB95, or samples; or for the period of transition in securing medications through these means.

Flex funds may not be used:

1. To pay for items that are included in the service rate.
2. To pay for physical health medication or devices i.e. hearing aids, eye glasses, contacts, life alert etc.
3. To pay for physical health appointments i.e. dental, eye, hearing, physicals etc.
4. To pay for memberships i.e. gym memberships.
5. To pay for therapeutic animals or training of animals.
6. To pay for storage or storage fees.
7. To pay for items that are not pertinent to treatment and recovery.

Flex funds should be used as a last resort; the Community Support worker and consumer shall exhaust all other options available in the community before requesting flex funds and provide adequate documentation within the record of persons served to demonstrate these efforts.

Flex funds are time-limited and may not be used for ongoing or extended periods of time. Flex funds may not be used for more than three consecutive months by the same consumer in the same category i.e. housing, transportation, medications etc. Flex funds are not to exceed \$1,000 per consumer per fiscal year, July 1-June 30.

Requests for exceptions to this policy will be accepted for consideration by Region 5 Systems on a case-by-case basis.

See corresponding procedures for “Community Support Consumer Flexible Funding”