

FAQs (frequently asked questions) **for Inclusion/Adaptive Services & R.A.D.D.** (Recreational Activities for Developmentally Disabled)

The City of Colton Community Services Department is committed to making all reasonable efforts to ensure that its facilities, programs, and services are accessible by all people, including people with disabilities.

Why do I or my participant need to complete the intake process before we can register or attend programs?

The intake process has been designed to give the participant (and their parent, guardian, care provider) the opportunity to meet with staff privately to ask questions, gather information and make an informed decision on what programs they will enjoy and meet their personal goals for recreation and leisure time activities and interests. It is also a time for staff to meet the participant (and their parent, guardian, care provider) to gather information that will assist the staff member in recommending programs. The information gathered is completely confidential and shared only with staff directly overseeing participants on a need-to-know basis, so that staff may properly prepare and plan for any special interest, activities, and goals or concerns the participant may have. The intake process also helps to avoid any issues that may arise from lack of knowledge, an example of this would be one participant has a fear of dogs but another participant usually brings their service dog with them.

How will I or my participant benefit from participating in an adaptive (partial inclusion) program?

The City of Colton, Community Services Department believes individuals of all abilities have the right to participate in recreation and leisure time activities. Everyone should be given the opportunity to choose fun and engaging programs to socialize, gain independence, and explore active and creative experiences which are key components in the continuous development of all individuals. People with disabilities will have the same recreational experience as those without disabilities in a specially designed partially integrated program setting to allow them best possible experience.

How will I or my participant benefit from participating in a fully inclusive recreational program?

People with disabilities will have the opportunity to have the same recreational experience as those without disabilities in a specially designed program that has identified and adapted specific areas of the program to allow the maximum experience. In these programs, they will have their choice to participate at the level they feel comfortable while still addressing their desire to expand and challenge their skills, try new things and have a high rate of success with the help of experienced staff.

How do I determine if partial or full inclusion is the right choice?

To assist and ensure success, individuals and/or the parent/provider of a participant are encouraged to observe the program and be prepared to discuss with staff the answers to these questions:

- Will I or my participant be comfortable and function appropriately, with or without accommodations, in this environment?
- Do I or my participant have an interest in this program, the activities being offered, and the location and environment the program occurs in?

What disabilities or special needs should I report when seeking an accommodation?

Anything that you think may have an effect on your ability to participate in the program. Medical conditions, physical disabilities/mobility impairments, developmental disabilities, or major behavior concerns are all things staff may need to know about.

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What are some examples of reasonable accommodations to promote successful participation in a program?

- An enhanced staff/ ratio
- Behavior Support Plan
- Adapted Equipment
- Allow the participant to be accompanied by their own assistant without additional charge or restrictions

How are ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) accommodations determined?

Based on information gathered from the Request Form, Questionnaire, and intake interview, a written accommodation plan will be developed which details specific needs and strategies for successful inclusion.

What are some of the basic eligibility requirements for your programs?

Requirements for inclusion in a program are the same as those for a person without a disability:

- Meets age limits
- Registration into program
- Must have the ability and willingness to participate in group activities for the majority of the time
- Must be able to understand and follow program rules and conduct themselves safely and appropriately within a group setting (if the behavior of the participant becomes unsafe for themselves or others they may be asked to leave the program)
- Able to indicate basic needs and follow simple directions

Are there limitations to Inclusion Services?

These accommodations are not provided:

- A separate area or alternative activity for more than 25% of a scheduled program or class
- Individualized therapy within a program
- Exceptions to a program's safety guidelines, rules and regulations, whether accommodations are made or not.*

* Programs are not required to accept individuals who would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others or whose presence or necessary care would fundamentally alter the nature of the program.

Will staff provide personal care?

Staff can develop a formal restroom schedule and provide guidance. Staff will also assist with the unwrapping/opening of food items. However, Recreation programs do not provide personal aides for toileting and feeding and participants/parents/providers must make their own arrangements to ensure personal needs are met.

Is transportation provided to and from the program site?

The Recreation Division does not provide transportation to or from the home for programs. There are, however, circumstances where transportation is provided to and from events the participants attend within the program:

- Field Trips: Vans or buses are utilized for most field trips without air conditioning. Buses will pick up and drop off at a pre-determined location.
- Excursions: Buses will be utilized for trips and tours, in most cases with air conditioning. Buses will pick up and drop off at a pre-determined location.

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What is the R.A.D.D. Club (Recreation for Developmentally Disabled) environment like?

The R.A.D.D. Club is generally very stimulating: potentially noisy and always active with a variety of large and small group activities. Structure will vary by site, but general recreation activities are planned throughout the event with a varying number of participants. For all R.A.D.D. Club programs, there is always a minimum of two (2) staff assigned with additional staff assigned for a ratio of one to every six participants. All participants requiring personal/intrusive services such as toileting assistance, injections, catheterization, or feeding are most welcome to participate, but must bring their own personal aide to any activity or program, at no extra charge, to perform those duties. Events are located in City parks and facilities and some events are subject to extended periods of time in 'hot or cold' weather conditions.

What happens if I or my participant is having a bad day and needs some quiet time?

Programs can provide quiet areas for individuals needing some time to "chill" and engage briefly in individual activities such as reading or drawing. It is helpful for participants or parents/providers to bring or send items which participants may need to utilize, if they need a temporary break from the regular program. However, a separate room is not available since most programs take place in a public park or at facilities where other rooms are in use.

Why do you request a copy of my or my participant's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or IPP (Individual Program Plan)?

Since many IEP's/IPP's have a goal for recreation experiences, it is helpful to review the information provided as it is specific to each individual and outlines goals and objectives for success.

For additional information and/or questions regarding Inclusion or Adaptive Services, please contact Kelly Phelps, Recreation Coordinator at 909-370-5568 or kphelps@ci.colton.ca.us

