



## **What is SLS??**

Supported Living Services (SLS) is a Medicaid Waiver Program in Colorado designed for Medicaid eligible persons with developmental disabilities. This program provides community-based services. State funding is available for individuals without Medicaid to receive the same services in the Medicaid program. Supported Living Services provides services and supports to enable a person with a developmental disability to remain in control of their own living arrangements and be included in Colorado's community life.

Supported Living Services is designed for attaining the unmet needs of the individual. Choice has become the central element of SLS. The program offers safe and reasonable choice of services and providers. Individuals', families and the Arkansas Valley Community Center staff come together to develop a service plan designed to balance their needs, allowable services and the amount of funds available to provide support to each individual. The AVCC and other contract providers, as selected by each participant, provide services and supports for these needs.

The goal of the SLS program is to provide necessary services and supports to persons with developmental disabilities so they may remain living in their own homes and community with minimal intrusion into the person's life. Promoting individual choice and local decision-making through the individual planning process by tailoring services and supports to address unmet needs. To supplement existing natural supports and generic community resources with targeted and cost effective supports and services.

During the enrollment process service options and descriptions are reviewed with the individual and their family members. Consumers are informed of our services during enrollment. The AVCC meets the needs of individuals enrolled in the SLS Program by providing the following services and supports.



## Available Services


- ❖ Personal Assistance Services
  - Personal Care
  - Household Activities
  - Mentorship Activities
  
- ❖ Day Habilitation Services
  - Community Accessibility
  - Specialized Habilitation
  - Specialized Habilitation Work
  
- ❖ Supported Employment Services
  - Individual Job Placement
  - Community Jobs
  - Job Coaching
  - Job Development
  
- ❖ Transportation Services
  
- ❖ Dental, Vision and Hearing Services
  
- ❖ Professional Services
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Physical Therapy
  - Communication Services
  - PC/Licensed Medical Care
  
- ❖ Assistive Technology
  
- ❖ Home Modification
  
- ❖ Supported Living Consultation (not a required service)



## About the Program—

The SLS Program is open to all individuals determined eligible for the services funded through Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS). The SLS Program is not designed to provide 24-hour care to individuals, but to meet the prioritized needs of individuals living on their own or with their families. The AVCC enrolls into the SLS Program eligible individuals residing within the tri-county area. The AVCC is currently serving individuals of all ages. The AVCC does not restrict individuals based on their income, emotional, behavioral, physical or other limitations. All individuals enrolled in SLS receive Case Management services through the AVCC. To ensure a wide variety of provider choices, services and supports are met by the AVCC SLS Program, other service agencies, independent contractors, professionals, vendors, family members, and natural supports. Funding for services is funneled through the AVCC. The AVCC is responsible for screening & monitoring service providers to ensure they are competent and qualified for services provision and assurance of protection of the consumer.

The SLS Program provides such a large range of choice that it has created a competition for services. There are a limited number of service providers in the tri-county area. Spectrum Community Services remains the only Service Provider Organization (SPO). Spectrum is currently providing limited services to AVCC consumers. Spectrum provides personal assistance, community assistance, supported living consultation, and transportation at a flat rate of \$17.77 per hour. The AVCC provides personal assistance, community assistance, supported living consultation (not a required service), transportation, professional (nursing only), day habilitation, and supported employment. The rates of AVCC services range from \$7.00 to \$20.00 per hour. The AVCC also arranges providers for professional (OT-PT-SLT), assistive technology, home modification, behavioral, dental, vision, and hearing, services




Consumers are given choice as to the provider agency they wish to meet their needs. Consumers are encouraged to give input into the type of staff they would like to have to provide services and supports. Consumers are offered a choice of providers when available. Consumers may choose to have a new staff or service provider at any time if they are unsatisfied. The SLS Coordinator will assist the consumer in finding a different provider. A survey is completed yearly to ensure each consumer's satisfaction with services provided and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the AVCC and/or other Service Provider Organizations.

Since the SLS Program is a Medicaid funded program the state has written guidelines on resource assignment. Some services have rate caps to maintain cost effectiveness.

The AVCC SLS program has two committees to monitor resources and utilization. The Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) and the SLS Utilization Team (SLSUT), The RAC meets every six months while the SLSUT meets monthly. The RAC will include the SLS Coordinator, another AVCC Program Coordinator, the Finance Director, and an SLS Provider. The RAC was developed to review services and supports when the total plan cost exceeds \$20,000.00 or when the cost of home modification, assistive technology items, and single items exceeds \$1,000.00. The RAC also reviews all SLS grievances and disputes. The SLSUT members include the SLS Coordinator, the Finance Director, and the Case Management Director. The SLSUT reviews total program cost and budgetary efficiency. When programming questions arise individuals at DDS may be contacted.

Supported Living Services offers the individual an opportunity to select supports and services from an approved "menu" of services. Offering an SLS resource to the individual does not guarantee any particular services or support, but instead, requires the individual to select services that best meet his/her needs.



Developmental Disabilities Services guidelines suggest that AVCC review and insure that justification is in place for annual individual service plan amounts significantly above the average plan cost. Once enrolled in the SLS Program, several assessments will be completed to evaluate the consumer's skills, abilities, and needs. An Individual Plan (IP) will be developed to set goals and prioritize needs. These assessments, and any professional evaluations or legal documents, will be used to justify the level of resources allocated to the individual. These assessments will be redone when there is a major change in an individual's life situation or there is a change in the annual contracted resource value from DDS. A Schedule of Service (SOS) will be created during the IP discussion. The SOS lists the cost of each service and an estimate of the total cost for the next year. The IP and SOS are three months following the initial IP. The IP and SOS are then reviewed every six months for both annual and six-month reviews. The SOS may be revised to meet the needs of the individual as they change through out the year. The SLS Coordinator may approve changes in hours and/or categories if the plan total plan cost is not greatly affected. The RAC reviews changes in the plan entailing an increase in the plan cost of \$1000.00 or more.

The SLS Program is responsible for maintaining and monitoring the health and safety of individuals in services. The SLS Program ensures that individuals are living in safe environments and receive training to assist them in living independently. Throughout each year assessments are completed to ensure the health & safety of individuals in service. Individuals living independently receive a Health, Safety & Skill assessment that is used to create a Safety Plan. These consumers will receive training in the areas of Health and Safety as needed to maintain their independence. Individuals living with their families will be encouraged to receive the same services, especially those individuals who are unsupervised for any length of time. The SLS Program has been designed to assist individuals with increasing their independence and improving their quality of life. If you need more information or have questions please call the Arkansas Valley Community Center. The SLS Department will be glad to assist you.