BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

CLAIMANT

and

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER,

Service Agency.

DDS No. CS0028410

OAH No. 2025070862

DECISION

Julie Cabos Owen, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California, heard this matter by videoconference on October 7, 2025. Karin Ahdoot, Due Process Officer, represented North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC or Service Agency). Claimant was represented by his mother who is also one of his conservators. (Claimant's and his family members' names are omitted to protect their privacy.)

Testimony and documents were received in evidence. The record closed and the matter was submitted for decision on October 7, 2025.

ISSUE

Should NLACRC be required to reimburse Claimant for items he purchased for his culinary arts classes at Mission College?

EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence considered in this case was Service Agency exhibits 1 – 17, and Claimant's exhibits A - G. The testimonial evidence considered in this case was that of Client Services Coordinator (CSC) Song Kim, Consumer Services Supervisor (CSS) Elizabeth Flores, and Claimant's mother.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

Claimant Background

- 1. Claimant is a 20-year-old conserved male. He qualifies for regional center services under the Fifth Category (i.e., having a disabling condition closely related to Intellectual Disability or requiring services similar to those for an individual with Intellectual Disability).
 - 2. Claimant lives with his parents who are his conservators.
- 3. Claimant has been attending classes at Los Angeles Mission College (Mission College) since 2023. In Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Claimant enrolled in culinary arts classes at Mission College.
 - 4. Claimant is also a consumer with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR).

- 5. On July 12, 2023, Claimant's and NLACRC's representatives conducted an Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting. The written IPP noted Claimant would be attending classes at Mission College in Fall 2023, and he had completed a DOR application for services. Listed among Claimant's identified goals was his desire to increase his independent living skills, including making simple meals using a stove with supervision. NLACRC agreed to fund an Adaptive Skills Training (AST) assessment through K&L Care (K&L). The purpose of the AST services would be to assist Claimant with support on campus (e.g., accessing his physical environment, understanding the syllabus, communicating with professors), and increasing his daily living skills in the family home.
- 6. At the July 12, 2023 IPP meeting, neither Claimant nor his mother discussed Claimant enrolling in a culinary arts class at Mission College.

Claimant's Adaptive Skills Training

- 7. K&L conducted an AST assessment of Claimant and issued a report on October 25, 2023. The goals identified for Claimant's AST training included:
 - 1. [Claimant] will be able to engage in age-appropriate Self-Direction Skills (e.g., accessing campus resources, selfmanagement, etc.)[;]
 - 2. [Claimant] will be able to engage in age-appropriate Community Integration Skills (e.g., campus navigation, transportation skills, etc.)[;]

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3. [Claimant] will be able to engage in age-appropriate Independent Living Skills (e.g., cooking skills, money management, daily household chores, etc.)[.]

(Exhibit 4, p. A71.)

- 8. NLACRC funded Claimant's AST services through K&L for 18 months, from February 2024 through July 2025.
- 9. On December 12, 2024, K&L issued a progress report noting Claimant had made progress in all areas of his AST, including self-direction skills (self-management, accessing campus resources, and vocational skills), community integration skills (transportation skills, and campus navigation), independent living skills (cooking skills, daily household chores, and money management), social skills, functional communication skills, and self-care skills.
- 10. The December 12, 2024 report noted Claimant had completed three semesters at Mission College and would be enrolling in spring semester classes. Claimant was also enrolled with the Disabled Student Program and Services (DSPS) office where he had access to campus resources such as audiobooks, testing rooms, and note takers. According to the December 12, 2024 progress report, Claimant's AST for self-direction goals included accessing campus resources to help him achieve his academic goals (e.g., signing up for tutoring as needed, and making appointments with his counselor at the DSPS office). Claimant's AST for community integration skills included safe campus navigation (e.g., locating the bookstore, the library, and the tutoring center).

11. The December 12, 2024 progress report also noted the following regarding Claimant's AST for independent living skills:

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

Cooking Skills

This program was introduced in February 2024 and is designed to increase [Claimant's] understanding of the appropriate precautions to take when independently utilizing the tools and appliances in the kitchen when cooking a meal (e.g., stove safety, microwave safety). Additionally, through this program [Claimant] will increase his fluency in the kitchen, specifically with tasks related to food preparation and clean up (e.g., dicing, slicing, and peeling). The long-term goal is for [Claimant] to develop the ability to independently prepare food that will properly sustain him, which will in turn increase his overall selfsufficiency and decrease his dependence on others. During this reporting period, [Claimant] mastered 4 new items (e.g., set microwave time, create ingredient list based off of a recipe, why do we preheat the oven). . . The current items on acquisition are "Boil water," "Make a hard-boiled egg," "Measure dry ingredients," and "Measure liquid ingredients."

(Exhibit 6, p. A82.)

- 12. In its December 12, 2024 report, K&L recommended Claimant continue with 23 hours per week of AST, with a subsequent fade-out plan that progressively reduced weekly therapeutic hours during the final three months of AST.
- 13. On August 5, 2025, K&L issued its final report terminating Claimant's AST services and noting that Claimant met all his listed goals, "increased his skillset (i.e., 210 mastered items), and continues to make progress across all of the domains." (Exhibit 7, p. A96.) However, Claimant required "further assistance to continue building on his deficit areas (e.g., Community Integration, Self-Direction Skills) and to widen his skill repertoire." (*Ibid.*) Consequently, K&L recommended that Claimant be assessed for participation in the Nexus College to Career program for young adults with developmental disabilities offered through the Tierra del Sol Foundation (Nexus program).
- 14. The August 5, 2025 report specifically noted Claimant's progress with his cooking skills as follows:

[T]hrough this program, [Claimant] has increased his fluency in the kitchen, specifically with tasks related to food preparation and clean up (e.g., dicing, slicing, and peeling). The long-term goal is for [Claimant] to develop the ability to independently prepare food that will properly sustain him, which will in turn increase his overall self- sufficiency and decrease his dependence on others. During his approximately 18-months of [AST] services, [Claimant] mastered a total of 13 new items in this program (i.e., boil water, make a hard-boiled egg, measure dry ingredients, measure liquid ingredients, create ingredient list based on

recipe serving size, check pantry/refrigerator for ingredients). . . . Retention rate for mastered items is currently at 100% for the month of July 2025.

(Exhibit 7, p. A93.)

Claimant's Culinary Arts Classes and Required Supplies

15. In Fall 2023, Claimant enrolled in Culinary Arts 050 – Sanitation and Safety (Fall Class) at Mission College. The Fall Class syllabus contained the following course description:

An introduction to the basic principles of sanitation, safety, work simplification, and use and care of institutional food service equipment. The emphasis is on the importance of proper employee training practices related to food safety. ServSafe Food Manager Certification will be obtained upon successfully passing the exam.

(Exhibit 8, p. A100.)

- 16. The Fall Class syllabus listed the course objectives as follows:
 - 1. Define the terms sanitation, hazard, risk, flow of food and critical control point.
 - 2. Explain the dangers of food-borne illness.
 - 3. Identify what is meant by high-risk populations for foodborne illness and explain why these populations are at high risk.

- 4. Identify the characteristics of potentially dangerous/hazardous food.
- 5. Identify three classifications of contamination associated with food.
- 6. Complete ServSafe test with a passing grade.

(Exhibit 8, p. A101.)

- 17. The Fall Class syllabus required students to wear the following uniform to every class: white chef coat, white neckerchief/cravat, white apron, black skull cap, heavy non-slip black shoes, black or white socks, and houndstooth/checkered pants. Students were also required to purchase the Fall Class course book.
- 18. In Spring 2024, Claimant enrolled in Culinary Arts 060 Culinary Orientation and Techniques (Spring Class) at Mission College. The Spring Class syllabus contained the following course description:

Students will apply history, description, and interrelationships of the hospitality industries with an emphasis on the multifaceted food service industry.

Introduction to the world of commercial food production.

Students are introduced to culinary theories and develop skills in knife handling, fabrication skills, ingredient identification, small and large equipment use, weights and measures, recipe development, and cooking fundamentals.

(Exhibit 8, p. A103.)

- 19. The Spring Class syllabus listed the course objectives as follows:
 - 1. Describe the basic hierarchy of a kitchen and name several positions in the kitchen brigade.
 - 2. Name the methods of heat transfer and list examples of cooking techniques that rely upon each method.
 - 3. Select and use hand tools, measuring equipment. and thermometers properly.
 - 4. Name the basic knife cuts and describe them.

(Exhibit 8, p. A103.)

- 20. The Spring Class syllabus required students to wear their uniform to every class. Additional required supplies for the Spring Class included the course book and a "knife kit." (Exhibit 8, p. A103.)
- 21. In September 2023 and February/March 2024, Claimant's parents purchased Claimant's books, required uniform, and a set of knives for his Fall Class and Spring Class participation.

Claimant's Request for DOR Reimbursement

22. In November 2023 and June 2024, Claimant's mother left a voicemail message for Claimant's DOR Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Armando Molina, requesting a meeting to discuss Claimant's needs and reimbursement for college class expenses.

- 23. In June 2024, Claimant and his mother met with Molina, and Molina provided them with several forms to submit for reimbursement.
- 24. At the fair hearing, Claimant's mother admitted that, by June 2024, the 30-day time limit for submitting DOR reimbursement requests for class expenses had expired. However, she had been unaware of this time limit, and she did not recall Molina mentioning it.
- 25. On July 11, 2024, and July 12, 2024, Molina informed Claimant's mother that Claimant's requests for DOR reimbursement had been submitted. At the fair hearing, Claimant's mother did not recall Molina mentioning that the requests for reimbursement had been submitted late.
- 26. On July 15, 2024, Molina informed Claimant's mother that additional documentation was needed, and on July 23, 2024, Claimant's mother provided Molina with additional documentation. Claimant's mother did not recall Molina mentioning that the requests for reimbursement had been submitted late.
- 27. On September 19, 2024, Molina informed Claimant's mother by email that Claimant's reimbursement requests had been denied.
 - 28. On May 1, 2025, DOR sent Claimant a formal denial letter which stated:

After careful review of your case and the receipts that were provided, the [DOR] has determined that reimbursements request for the Fall 23 and Spring 24 are denied.

The amazon receipts were not approved by the accounting department. When turning in the receipt[,] specific information must be on the receipt to approve the

reimbursement. Unfortunately, the receipt submitted for this reimbursement where no [*sic*] valid.

The Chegg reimbursement was denied because the receipt date [was] past the 30 day deadline for reimbursement.

Friendly, reminder [sic] that in addition to turning in the receipt with specific information on the receipt[,] the receipt must not [be] past 30 days when submitting the request.

We remain committed to supporting you in your vocational goals and are still available to assist you. [T]o prevent future denials[,] make sure to check the receipt's information.

Make sure all the information is there. Lastly[,] turn in the receipt as soon as possible.

(Exhibit 11.)

IPPs and Request for Reimbursement for College Class Supplies

- 29. On February 12, 2024, Claimant's CSC, Claimant, and his mother participated in an annual meeting, and an annual progress report was drafted.
- 30. The February 12, 2024 annual report noted Claimant had started his second semester at Mission College, and he was majoring in Early Childhood Development. The report noted Claimant "is currently enrolled in Culinary class where he is learning to use a knife safely." (Exhibit 5, p. A76.)
- 31. At the February 12, 2024 annual meeting, neither Claimant nor his mother mentioned to Claimant's CSC that Claimant would be seeking NLACRC reimbursement for his culinary arts class supplies.

- 32. The February 12, 2024 annual report noted Claimant had applied to DOR but was awaiting services. Claimant's CSC recommended that Claimant and his mother again contact a DOR representative to discuss possible benefits.
 - 33. In February 2024, NLACRC began funding Claimant's AST services.
- 34. On March 13 and 26, 2025, Claimant's CSC, Claimant, and his parents participated in an annual meeting. The parties discussed the fade-out plan for Claimant's AST services and the option of the Nexus program. At the March 2025 annual meeting, Claimant's mother first requested NLACRC reimbursement for Claimant's culinary arts class supplies. The March 2025 annual report notes:

[Claimant] has [an] active [DOR] case. Mother is working with DOR to seek reimbursement for Culinary class related items such as uniform, bags, kitchen shoes, etc. Mother requested reimbursement from [NLACRC,] and CSC explained to mother that she will need to follow up with DOR for outcome. If DOR denies request, CSC requested a denial letter from DOR to be sent to CSC for consideration.

(Exhibit 12, p. A137.)

- 35. On May 1, 2025, Claimant's mother forwarded Claimant's CSC an email from Molina confirming DOR's denial of reimbursement. Claimant's mother later forwarded the formal denial letter from DOR, dated May 1, 2025.
- 36. On May 1, 2025, NLACRC sent Claimant a Notice of Action (NOA), denying his request for reimbursement for the supplies he purchased for his culinary arts classes at Mission College. The stated reasons for the denial were as follows:

There was no IPP planning meeting to discuss your request for necessary items for [Claimant's] Culinary class at Mission College. [Claimant] also has an active case with [DOR], which is a generic resource. The items purchased for Mission College Culinary class are not disability related nor are they specialized. The items are typical of general students taking the same class and thus it is the consumer's responsibility for desired items.

(Exhibit 1, p. A7.)

- 37. In support of the funding denial, the NOA cited Welfare and Institutions Code sections 4648, 4612, subdivision (b), and 4646.5, subdivision (a)(8). (Exhibit 1, p. A7.)
- 38. Claimant filed a Fair Hearing Request to appeal the denial of reimbursement, and this fair hearing was set.

Evidence at Fair Hearing

- 39. CSC Song Kim and CSS Elizabeth Flores testified credibly on behalf of NLACRC, and they detailed the reasons for NLACRC's funding denial. Their testimony mirrored the rationale set forth in NLACRC's NOA and position statement. That rationale is set forth in Factual Findings 40 through 47.
- 40. In order to fund a consumer's services, NLACRC must follow the relevant laws and regulations, as well as its own written purchase of service standards.

41. NLACRC's Service Standards (adopted 3/13/24, approved by the Department of Developmental Services 7/29/24) provide in pertinent part:

The determination of which services and supports are necessary shall be made through the IPP process on the basis of the needs and preferences of the consumer or, when appropriate, the consumer's family. $[\P]$. . . $[\P]$

All purchase of service (POS) requests will be subject to [NLACRC's] internal process, which ensures adherence with federal and state laws and regulations, and ensures all of the following:

Conformance with the center's service and procedural standards.

Utilization of generic services and supports prior to expending regional center funds, as appropriate. [1] . . . [1]

All NLACRC POS authorizations must be supported and documented in the IPP. NLACRC shall not supplant the budget of any generic agency. [1] . . . [1]

NLACRC is committed to pursuing all viable public and private sources of funding on behalf of consumers prior to the utilization of the center's funds[.]

Public sources of funding include, but are not limited to, generic agencies. A generic agency is any agency which has a legal responsibility to serve all members of the general public and is receiving public funds for providing such service. Private sources of funding include health insurance.
... In practice, this requires NLACRC to first investigate and, if appropriate, pursue funding for services and supports from but not limited to the following sources on behalf of consumers: [1] ... [1] Department of Rehabilitation. [1] ...

It is the policy of NLACRC to utilize all other resources before expending the center's funds. Since NLACRC is precluded by law from supplanting the budget of any generic agency, the possibility of funding required consumer services through generic agencies or private entities must be explored first and determined not to be available prior to expending NLACRC funds. . . . The consumer's file must reflect the attempt to obtain generic . . . sources of funding for the purchase of service request. For other than reasons of health and safety, there must be written documentation of a denial. . . . All avenues of appeal must be followed with generic agencies and documented in the consumer file.

(Exhibit 14, pp. A172-A173, A175-A176.)

42. NLACRC denied Claimant's request for reimbursement for purchase of his culinary arts class supplies because Claimant did not appropriately seek funding through the IPP process. Claimant failed to make any funding request for his class supplies at either the July 2023 IPP meeting or the February 2024 annual meeting.

Claimant did not seek funding for his class supplies until his reimbursement request in March 2025. Authorizing retroactive funding/reimbursement is inconsistent with NLACRC policy and the relevant laws.

- 43. NLACRC also denied Claimant's request for reimbursement for purchase of his culinary arts class supplies because a generic entity was responsible for funding those items.
- 44. NLACRC must consider all generic resources when determining sources of funding. DOR is a public agency and a generic resource that provides educational support and vocational training for post- high school adults. Claimant is pursuing a college education at Mission College, and it is DOR's responsibility to provide support for this pursuit, including funding class materials such as Claimant' class uniform (chef coat, neckerchief, apron, pants, cap, and shoes), knife set, and instructional books.
- 45. Claimant's mother was aware of DOR's responsibility to provide college support and funding. When CSC Kim learned of Claimant's Mission College classes (but not specifically his culinary arts classes) at the July 12, 2023 IPP meeting, she and Claimant's mother discussed Claimant's application for services from DOR. At the February 2024 annual meeting, CSC Kim and Claimant's mother again discussed DOR services, and CSC Kim recommended that Claimant and his mother again contact a DOR representative to discuss possible benefits. Claimant eventually submitted his reimbursement request to DOR in July 2024. However, DOR remains the responsible funding entity.
- 46. NLACRC is considered the payor of last resort, and it must ensure Claimant exhausts all generic resources. DOR sent Claimant a denial letter on May 1, 2025, and Claimant has the right to appeal that denial for up to one year from the

denial. However, Claimant has not yet pursued any appeal of the DOR's May 1, 2025 denial, and Claimant must exhaust all generic resources before looking to NLACRC to provide supports. NLACRC remains willing to coordinate with Claimant and his family to support him in participating in DOR-funded programs.

- 47. NLACRC also denied Claimant's request for reimbursement for purchase of his culinary arts class supplies because the items were not directly related to Claimant's developmental disability needs. The chef coat, neckerchief, apron, pants, cap, shoes, and knife set were required for all class students, and these supplies are not considered specialized or adaptive equipment directed to meet Claimant's disability needs.
- 48. At hearing, Claimant's mother argued that the purchased class supplies (specifically the cutting knives, non-slip shoes, and culinary arts textbook) "are critical tools for developing the independence and life skills" (Exhibit E, p. B11), and they facilitate the development of Claimant's executive functioning skills, fine motor skills and dexterity, safety skills, following multi-step instructions, sensory regulation, community integration, and social skills. Claimant's mother maintained the class supplies "are specifically needed to support [Claimant's] learning curve and help him fit in, plus they were specifically recommended by the instructors." (*Id.* at p. B12.) Claimant's mother also argued that Claimant's former AST services focused on some cooking skills to develop his adaptive/independent living skills, and therefore, the culinary class supplies are likewise tied to his developmental disability service needs. These arguments are not persuasive.
- 49. While Claimant may have learned skills in his culinary arts classes that could further his cooking skills and thus his life skills, the same can be said for all other students in the classes. Consequently, the culinary arts class supplies were not directly

tied to Claimant's developmental disability needs, and Claimant's generalized benefit from the culinary arts classes does not render the class supplies "specialized services and supports or special adaptations of generic services and supports." (Welf. & Ins. Code, § 4512, subd. (b).) In contrast, Claimant previously received specialized services through his AST program with K&L Care that focused on specified cooking goals, all of which were successfully achieved. This included Claimant mastering a total of 13 new cooking skills, including boiling water, making a hard-boiled egg, and measuring dry ingredients.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

Jurisdiction and Burden of Proof

- 1. An administrative hearing to determine the rights and obligations of the parties is available under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act) to appeal a regional center decision. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 4700-4716.) Claimant requested a hearing following Service Agency's denial of reimbursement, and therefore, jurisdiction for this appeal was established.
- 2. A party who seeks government benefits or services bears the burden of proof. (See, e.g., *Lindsay v. San Diego Retirement Bd.* (1964) 231 Cal.App.2d 156, 161 [disability benefits].) Where a change in services is sought, the party seeking the change bears the burden of proving that a change in services is necessary. (Evid. Code, § 500.) The standard of proof in this case is a preponderance of the evidence because no law or statute (including the Lanterman Act) requires otherwise. (Evid. Code, § 115.)
- 3. In seeking reimbursement for items purchased for his culinary arts classes at Mission College, Claimant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance

of the evidence that the funding is required. Claimant has failed to meet his burden of proving he is entitled to the funding he seeks.

Relevant Provisions of the Lanterman Act

- 4. A regional center is required to ensure the provision of services and supports to consumers that meet their individual needs, preferences, and goals as identified in their IPP. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 4501; 4512, subd. (b); 4646, subd. (a).)
- 5. In securing services and supports for its consumers, a regional center must consider the cost-effectiveness of service options. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 4646, subd. (a); 4512, subd. (b).)
- 6. Additionally, when purchasing services and supports, regional centers are required to ensure the "utilization of generic services and supports when appropriate." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 4646.4, subd. (a)(2).)
- 7. "Regional center funds shall not be used to supplant the budget of an agency that has a legal responsibility to serve all members of the general public and is receiving public funds for providing those services." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 4648, subd. (a)(8).)
- 8. Welfare and Institutions Code section 4512, subdivision (b), specifically provides:

"Services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities" means specialized services and supports or special adaptations of generic services and supports directed toward the alleviation of a developmental disability or toward the social, personal, physical, or economic

habilitation or rehabilitation of an individual with a developmental disability, or toward the achievement and maintenance of an independent, productive, and normal life. The determination of which services and supports are necessary for each consumer shall be made through the [IPP] process. The determination shall be made on the basis of the needs and preferences of the consumer or, when appropriate, the consumer's family, and shall include consideration of a range of service options proposed by [IPP] participants, the effectiveness of each option in meeting the goals stated in the [IPP], and the costeffectiveness of each option.

- 9. Welfare and Institutions Code section 4646.4 provides, in pertinent part:
 - (a) Regional centers shall ensure, at the time of development, scheduled review, or modification of a consumer's [IPP] developed pursuant to Sections 4646 and 4646.5..., the establishment of an internal process. This internal process shall ensure adherence with federal and state law and regulation, and when purchasing services and supports, shall ensure all of the following:
 - (1) Conformance with the regional center's purchase of service policies, as approved by the department pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 4434.

- (2) Utilization of generic services and supports when appropriate. . . .
- 10. Welfare and Institutions Code section 4646.5, subdivision (a), provides in pertinent part:

The planning process for the [IPP] . . . shall include all of the following: (1) Gathering information and conducting assessments to determine the life goals, capabilities and strengths, preferences, barriers, and concerns or problems of the person with developmental disabilities. . . . Information shall be taken from the consumer, the consumer's parents and other family members, the consumer's friends, advocates, authorized representative, if applicable, providers of services and supports, and other agencies. The assessment process shall reflect awareness of, and sensitivity to, the lifestyle and cultural background of the consumer and the family. $[\P]$. . . $[\P]$ (8) A schedule of regular periodic review and reevaluation to ascertain that planned services have been provided, that objectives have been fulfilled within the times specified, and that consumers and families are satisfied with the individual program plan and its implementation.

Analysis and Conclusion

11. The Lanterman Act envisions a collaborative IPP process in determining the appropriate services and supports for regional center consumers. Provision of

those services and supports is governed by the Lanterman Act, its supporting regulations, and a regional center's purchase of service policies.

- 12. Per the Lanterman Act and NLACRC policy, the determination of which services and supports are necessary must be made through the IPP process. However, Claimant did not appropriately seek funding through the IPP process, failing to seek funding either at the July 2023 IPP or the February 2024 annual meeting. Instead, he sought reimbursement over a year later in March 2025. Such reimbursement is inconsistent with NLACRC policy and the relevant laws.
- 13. Per the Lanterman act and NLACRC policy, NLACRC is precluded from supplanting the budget of any generic agency, in this case the DOR. Funding through DOR must be explored first, including all avenues of appeal, and such funding must be determined to be unavailable prior to expending NLACRC funds. However, Claimant has not yet pursued any appeal of the DOR's May 1, 2025 denial, and he must exhaust all generic resources before looking to NLACRC to provide funding.
- 14. Pursuant to the Lanterman Act (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 4612, subd. (b)), the "services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities" which regional centers may provide "means specialized services and supports or special adaptations of generic services and supports" directed to address a consumer's developmental disability. The class supplies Claimant purchased for his culinary arts classes (chef coat, neckerchief, apron, pants, cap, shoes, knife set, and course text) were required for all class students, and these supplies are not considered specialized or adaptive equipment directed to meet Claimant's disability needs.

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15. Given the foregoing, NLACRC's denial of reimbursement for Claimant's purchase of supplies for his culinary arts classes was appropriate. Claimant has failed to establish he is entitled to reimbursement.

ORDER

Claimant's appeal is denied. North Los Angeles County Regional Center's denial of reimbursement for items Claimant purchased for his culinary arts classes at Mission College is upheld.

DATE:

JULIE CABOS OWEN

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

NOTICE

This is the final administrative decision. Each party is bound by this decision. Either party may request reconsideration pursuant to subdivision (b) of Welfare and Institutions Code section 4713 within 15 days of receiving the decision, or may appeal the decision to a court of competent jurisdiction within 180 days of receiving the final decision.