



<b>Policy Number:</b> SE4.120	<b>Policy Section:</b> Supports and Services	<b>Effective:</b> November 12, 2007
<b>Title:</b> Community Supports Policy		<b>Executive Sponsor:</b> Directors, Regional Operations

**1. PURPOSE**

CLBC’s vision is one of “full citizenship in which people with developmental disabilities lead good lives, have rich relationships with friends and family, financial security, choices in how they live their lives, employment opportunities and are accepted and valued as citizens....”

This policy outlines two methods of putting this vision into practice through the use of generic services and informal supports. Facilitators assist adults to access generic services and informal supports. Both facilitators and analysts record information on the use of generic services and informal supports.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

**Generic services:** Funded services that all citizens access, for example, libraries, colleges, or recreation centres

**Informal supports:** Associations (this can refer to social clubs and groups, or what is referred to as associational life, as well as friendship networks) or community activities that have public participation, for example sports teams, adult interest groups like garden clubs and community choirs, faith communities, or volunteerism

**3. POLICY**

CLBC supports full citizenship for all, which includes expanding opportunities to participate in community life. Two elements of community life are access to generic services and participation with informal supports. When helping individuals complete individual support plans, facilitators guide an exploration of the generic services and informal supports that are, or could be, linked to the individual’s goals. CLBC will collect information on the use of generic services and informal supports, with the expectation of increasing their use over time.

**4. PROCEDURES**

**4.1** When providing individual support in response to immediate life circumstances, or when providing independent planning support, facilitators will assist individuals to identify goals and the generic

services and informal supports that could assist the individual in achieving their goals. When generic services and informal community supports are not possible, CLBC-funded services may be requested.

4.2 When requested by the individual, facilitators will assist individuals to access generic or informal supports.

4.3 Facilitators will create awareness in their community of the importance of including people with developmental disabilities and the contributions they can make in services and activities.

4.4 Facilitators will record the use of generic services and informal supports in the individual's PARIS record. They will record the number of hours per week that the individual participates in generic or informal activities without paid support. They will also record the number of hours that access to generic or informal activities are supported by CLBC-funded services.

4.5 Analysts will also record the use of generic and informal supports as outlined in 4.4 when reviewing plans that are completed by individuals and their families or support network without the involvement of a facilitator.

## 5. PRACTICE

Please see the CLBC Facilitator Practice Guide for further details.

## 6. REFERENCES

John McKnight, Regenerating Community, Social Policy 25, 4 (Summer 1995).

John McKnight. [Regenerating Community: The Recovery of a Space for Citizens](#). Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University (May 29 2003).