

2002-2003 - CDGB QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Name of Organization: City of Davis – Parks and Community Services

Name of Project: Inclusive Recreation Program

- 1.) While Inclusive Recreation clients undoubtedly face challenges, what links do there appear to be between recreation and meeting basic human needs?

A majority of the participants in the Inclusive Recreation program are developmentally disabled or mentally ill. Many of them have great difficulty learning how to interact positively with other people. Numerous studies have proven that people require interaction with other human beings in order to thrive. In fact, quality of life cannot be achieved without interacting positively with other people. Although the Inclusive Recreation program does not provide food, shelter or health care, it 1) assists individuals in gaining skills necessary to access services and programs in the community that meet basic human needs and 2) teaches individuals life skills needed to create even the most minimal quality of life. The Inclusive Recreation service teaches individuals with disabilities the skills necessary to interact with other people. Social skills are used on a daily basis, e.g. to discuss a problem with a landlord, manage anger in a tense situation, or communicate with neighbors or a grocery clerk.

In addition, Inclusive Recreation can result in improved physical and mental health (e.g. as result of developing a life long interest and commitment to exercise or a recreational pursuit.)

- 2.) If very little or no funding were available from CDGB, how would the city of Davis meet this need?

Inclusive Recreation is a mandated service as part of the city's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should the city need to use more of its general funds to meet the Federal mandate, other programs would most likely be reduced (particularly vulnerable is Alternative Recreation, a heavily subsidized general recreation program specifically designed to meet the needs of teens and adults with developmental disabilities).

The CDGB program enhances the city's ability to meet the diverse needs of the disabled residents. In the past, the combination of CDGB funding with the "general fund" has allowed the City to serve all of the disabled who have requested services through the Inclusive Recreation program.