

Provision of iSocial® Social Skills Group for Neuro-Distinct Career Seekers

This Appendix defines general expectations applicable to the provision of **iSocial® Social Skills Group for Autism and other Neurodivergent Conditions**, for eligible appropriate individuals funded by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

I. Service Description

iSocial is a university research and evidence-based intervention that helps people with autism develop social skills. Seventeen university studies have proven efficacy. The iSocial intervention was developed, owned, and is licensed by the University of Missouri, Columbia and the Thompson Center for Autism. Currently it is licensed exclusively to iSocial, LLC.

iSocial is a social competence intervention that combines both cognitive-behavioral and applied behavior analysis principals within a group-based application. The virtual workshop is designed for high functioning individuals that can benefit from a social skill, perspective taking, and emotional regulation type of experience. Specifically designed to enhance the social competence needs of people with High Functioning Autism/Asperger's Syndrome (HFA/AS) or those with similar social skill needs. The workshops are conducted in an "Autism Affirming Environment" that is proven to provide clarity, develop skills and instill confidence in the absence of masking. There are 32 one-hour sessions conducted twice a week for 16 weeks using Zoom.

The program is facilitated by a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) or similar professional who has been trained by the University of Missouri to administer the 32 sessions. iSocial is delivered virtually using Zoom or a similar program. A scaffolding structure is deployed in session design and social orthotics are provided to help with generalization.

II. Scope Of Services

- A. **Quality Characteristics:** iSocial teams with Vanderbilt University's Frist Center for Autism Innovation, the University of Missouri, Columbia campus, and the Thompson Center for Autism Research. The workshops are conducted in an "Autism Affirming Environment" that is proven to provide clarity, develop skills and instill confidence in the absence of masking.
- B. **Methodology:** The Professional Communications and Leadership Skills Workshop (PCLS) is a Zoom series of case-based sessions designed to empower neurodiverse participants to thrive in their school and work environments. Participants are led through sessions involving case studies, lessons, challenges, realistic role play and social skills labs. Workshop sessions take place virtually, for one hour, twice a week, over 16 weeks. Groups are strategically placed into a small community of learners where all create personalized tools for success in the classroom and in personal life. iSocial conducts the sessions with nationally known employment and autism experts.
- C. **iSocial Course outline.**

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The 32 sessions are broken down into 6 units each with specific learning objects addressed. These include:

- 1. Unit 1: Professional Communication Skills**
 - a) Micro-expressions, reading emotions, body language, and eye gaze.
 - b) Accurate perspective taking.
 - c) Social skills lab.

- 2. Unit 2: Professional Image**
 - a) Determining the professional image the participant wants to craft.
 - b) The role of appearance, behavior, and communication in crafting a professional image.
 - c) Rigidity vs. Flexibility

- 3. Unit 3: Spotting and Repairing Social Errors**
 - a) A tool for identifying when a social error has occurred.
 - b) Repairing errors after they have occurred.
 - c) Preventing future errors.

- 4. Unit 4: Conflict Resolution**
 - a) Strategies for effectively responding to a conflict.
 - b) How/when to address, assert, or advocate for self.
 - c) Matching solutions to conflict.

- 5. Unit 5: Self-Advocacy**
 - a) Steps for self-advocating.
 - b) Understanding rights.
 - c) Identifying when there is benefit in disclosing.

- 6. Unit 6: From Surviving to Thriving**
 - a) Advancement:
 - b) Using pros and cons.
 - c) Opportunity awareness.
 - d) Reflection on current situation versus preferred situation.
 - e) Tools to help move from surviving to thriving.

III. Payment Terms

- A. Fees are \$100 per person, per session. (There are 32 sessions, so the full price is \$3,200).
- B. iSocial® Social Skills Group for Autism, 32 sessions, fees \$100.00 per person, per 50-minute session or \$3,200.00
- C. The 32 group session package includes at no additional cost a one-on-one pre- placement introduction orientation, intake interview, pre and post evaluation and iSocial participant program guide

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IV. Staffing Requirements

- A. **Lead Facilitator requirements:** The program is facilitated by a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) or similar professional who has been trained and certified by the University of Missouri to administer the 32 session iSocial protocol.
- B. **Co-host self-advocate:** Each session is also conducted with the assistance of a co-host. They are successfully employed graduates of the program who provide a point of view of someone who is on the spectrum.

V. Fees, Deliverables And Guarantees.

- A. iSocial® Social Skills Group for Autism ,32 sessions, fees \$100.00 per person, per 50-minute session or \$3,200.00
- B. iSocial experience includes one-on-one interview for new referrals, a pre-program orientation, baseline skills evaluation, *team* placement, intake, orientation, workshop sessions, progress notes, per and post evaluation skills gains reports and a participant guide
- C. The one-on-one interview and evaluation assists in accurately matching individuals for placement in to matched team cohorts of about 6 individuals based on age, ability to communicate and interests.
- D. A participant may stop attending at any point. Billing and reporting occurs for services rendered directly to the individual participant.

VI. Reporting And Billing Requirements

- A. The Vendor shall provide the participant's DARS counselor with monthly reports by the 10th day of the month following services provided. If a participant misses a day of authorized services in any month, the Vendor shall immediately notify the participant's DARS counselor in email.
- B. A separate monthly report shall be submitted for each participant for each month the participant participates in an iSocial Social-Skills Group. The report shall include:
 - a. Dates the participant participated in the service.
 - b. Number of hours the service was provided.
 - c. Where the service was provided.
 - d. Summary of the service provided.
 - e. Specific progress notes relevant to the participant's progress in the service, to include:
 - f. Observed level of participation
 - g. Observed interests in information presented/activities.
 - h. Progress made and, as appropriate, increase and/or improvement in demonstrated skills.
 - i. Challenges/concerns observed.

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- j. Accommodations, compensatory techniques, and special training (if any) recommended for the participant to remediate barriers to meaningful participation in services, ability to benefit from services.
- C. The last month/final report is also to include:
 - a. Summary of the participant’s observed and measured experience and skills gains in the entire service and post service considerations and recommendations to include:
 - b. Summary description of attendance, level of participation, and engagement
 - c. Client satisfaction with the program and their skills gains achieved.
 - d. Documentation of measured level of skills gains with narrative summary regarding how measured and observed skills gains will contribute to the individual’s vocational achievement.
 - e. Skills gains will be documented through the use of pre and post evaluation using the Social Responsiveness Scale Version two (SRS-2) administered by Dr John Constantino. This is the premier measurement tool to evaluate social skills deficits and development for the neurodiverse. See the form here [SRS-2 Adult \(Self-Report\) Form | PDF | Feeling | Psychological Concepts](#)
 - f. Final recommendations/considerations to support unmet social skills goals as relevant to their vocational achievement and as relevant recommended vocational, social ,and AT supports to maximize long-term maintenance and generalization of new knowledge and skills across relevant environments such as the workplace, postsecondary education and vocational training, home, and community upon graduation from iSocial.
- D. Attachments of any material created by the participant /products resulting from the service/program.

VII. Evaluation Criteria

Services delivered under this Appendix to the Agreement shall be evaluated in accordance with the Scope of Services articulated in this document. Program reviews shall focus on, but not limited to:

- A. The extent to which the Vendor effectively supports participant’s vocational services needs as evidenced in the participants progress reports and post-service evaluation report
- B. The Vendor submitting to the DARS counselor a copy of all materials created by the participant/products resulting from the service.
- C. The timely submission of all invoices and reports.
- D. The maintenance of and compliance with a current vendor agreement.