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**CHAPTER 3: FISCAL/EMPLOYER AGENT**

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## **OVERVIEW**

Self-direction is a service delivery option which allows beneficiaries to become the employers of the direct service workers (DSWs) they choose to hire to provide supports for them. As the employer, the beneficiary, or his/her authorized representative is responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the DSWs they choose to hire.

A required component of the self-direction option is the use of a fiscal/employer agent (F/EA) to perform the beneficiary's employer-related financial management services (FMS). Beneficiaries must utilize support coordination services for the development of the plan of care (POC), budget planning, ongoing evaluation of supports and services, and for organizing the unique resources the beneficiary needs.

**NOTE:** An individual who is unable to make decisions independently or who does not have an authorized representative as their willing decision maker is not eligible to enroll in the self-direction option. The beneficiary is not allowed to receive supported independent living (SIL) services at the same time as they receive the self-direction option.