
CHAPTER 32: NEW OPPORTUNITIES WAIVER

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SELF-DIRECTION OPTION

Self-direction is a service delivery option which allows recipients to become the employer of the direct service workers they choose to hire to provide their supports. As the employer, the recipient or his/her authorized representative is responsible for recruiting, training, supervising and managing their direct service workers.

A required component of this option is the use of a contracted fiscal/employer agent who will perform the recipient's employer-related payroll functions. Recipients must utilize support coordination services for the development of the Plan of Care, budget planning, ongoing evaluation of supports and services and for organizing the unique resources the recipient needs.

Recipients participating in this option must:

- Be a NOW recipient;
- Be able to participate in this option without a lapse or decline in quality of care or an increased risk to his/her health and welfare;
- Complete the mandatory training including rights and responsibilities of managing his/her own services and supports offered by the support coordinator;
- Understand the rights, risks, and responsibilities of managing his/her own care, and managing and using an individual budget, or if unable to make decisions independently, have a willing decision maker (authorized representative who is listed on the recipient's plan of care) who understands the rights, risks, and responsibilities of managing the care and supports of the recipient within the individualized budget; and
- Follow all rules and requirements pertaining to Self-Direction as outlined in the OCDD Self-Direction Handbook.

NOTE: An individual who is able to make decisions independently or who have an authorized representative as their willing decision maker is not eligible to enroll in the Self-Direction option and also receive or continue to receive Supported Independent Living services.