

# Self-Direction in Waiver Services

Currently, recipients of the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children's Choice Waiver and Residential Options Waiver have the option of receiving services through a provider agency or through Self-Direction. The Self-Directed option gives you the most control over your supports, but also more responsibility. Here are some important facts:

- When you participate in Self-Direction, you are the employer. That means you recruit, hire and train who you want to support you.
- Program guidelines establish your budget, but you control the hourly pay rate and benefits for your employees (up to a maximum amount).
- If you live in a rural area, provider agencies may have a difficult time recruiting staff, since they might have to drive long distances to get to your home. Through Self-Direction, you may be able to hire someone who lives nearby.
- You don't have to do everything yourself. An authorized representative, such as a family member, may make decisions on your behalf.
- Your support coordinator will provide you with initial training on Self-Direction and ongoing support and assistance. A fiscal agent will process payroll for your employees and make the tax withholdings and deposits on your behalf.
- With the help of family and friends, people with significant developmental disabilities are able to use Self-Directed supports to live the life they choose.
- Many waiver participants have used the Self-Directed option successfully for years. Additional waiver participants can choose Self-Direction at this time.
- For more information on how you can Self-Direct, contact your support coordinator.

