

CONSUMER DIRECTED COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Consumer-directed community supports are services which provide support, care and assistance to an individual with a disability, prevent the person's institutionalization and allow the person to live an inclusive community life. Consumer-directed community supports are designed to build, strengthen or maintain informal networks of community support for the person. Consumer directed community supports include the following specific activities at the request and direction of the consumer or his/her legal representative:

1) Provision of services and supports which assist the person, family, or friends to:

- identify and access formal and informal support systems;
- develop a meaningful consumer support plan; or
- increase and /or maintain the capacity to direct formal and informal resources.

2) Completion of activities which assist the person, his/her family, or his/her friends to determine his/her own future.

3) Development of person-centered support plans which provide the direction, assistance and support to allow the person with a disability to live in the community, establish meaningful community associations, and make valued contributions to his/her community.

4) Ongoing- consultation, community support, training, problem-solving, and technical assistance to assure successful implementation of his/her person-centered plan.

5) Development and implementation of community support strategies that aid and strengthen the involvement of community members who assist the person living in the community.

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The consumer, his/her legal guardian, and the county agency will assure that consumer-directed community supports are not duplicative of any other service provided to the person.

Components of the consumer-directed community supports will be documented as necessary to prevent the person's institutionalization in the individual service plan/personal support plan.

Additionally, the county agency shall document how the community support services enable the person to lead an inclusive community life, build a viable network of support, and result in outcomes specified by the consumer or his/her legal guardian.

Provider Qualifications :

A New Definition

Consumer-directed community services will be provided by entities which meet the unique recipient needs and preferences of the consumer as specified in the person's individual service plan or personal support plan. Local agencies are responsible to work with the consumer and his/her legal guardian to assure that the consumer-directed community supports meets the recipient's health and safety needs, consumer preferences, and are directed at the desired consumer outcomes.

Consumer training and education will be provided by individuals, agencies or educational facilities which have expertise in areas such as consumer empowerment, consumer-directed community supports, self-advocacy, community inclusion, relationship building, problem solving and decision making.