

What are Consumer Directed Services?

Consumer Directed Services (CDS) allow individuals with significant disabilities to obtain assistance with personal care and activities of daily living in order to maintain or increase their independence. These programs are Medicaid-funded and give you the freedom of hiring and directing your own attendants.

Consumer Directed Services are in keeping with the Independent Living Philosophy, that persons with disabilities should have choice and control over their lives. Individuals with disabilities know best what types of services they want and need, and who they would choose to carry out those duties.

How Do I Qualify for Consumer Directed Services?

Individuals must meet certain criteria to qualify for CDS services, based on income and level of need.

Why Choose CDS?

We believe *choice* is the key to achieving the level of independence individuals with disabilities desire. For many years, there have been too few choices—where to live, what activities they wanted to take part in, and how personal care was provided. Today, there are more choices for those who desire them.

On the CDS program, participants may be able to avoid *leaving home* and entering an

“I was afraid I would have to go into a nursing home and leave my family, pets and the home I loved.”

institutional setting. They may also be able to *return home* from a more restrictive setting by using Consumer Directed Services.

Because the participant is the employer, that person has a much greater level of *control* over who provides the services and how they provide them. Many on the program have been able to work, go to school, enjoy recreation and be more fully a part of the community, because of these services. The choice is yours!

How Will SCIL Help?

The Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) has been administering CDS programs since 1988 and our staff is highly experienced in assisting people with disabilities in being the legal employers of their attendants. We provide on-going training and support as long as you are on the program.

Participants will receive training on:

- ◆ How to locate attendants
- ◆ Interviewing and hiring techniques
- ◆ Management of employees
- ◆ Employer responsibilities, such as completion of time sheets and other documentation

SCIL keeps a roster of persons who have indicated they would be interested in serving as attendants for the program. SCIL can also put the participant in touch with a “peer,” someone who has been on the program for some time, to discuss mutual issues.

Consumer Directed Services - An Overview

If you have a significant disability and need help with daily tasks, Consumer Directed Services (CDS) allow you to hire your own attendant and direct your own care. CDS could give you choices of staying in your own home or leaving an institution and returning to your own home.

Medicaid State Plan

For persons who are receiving Medicaid, are 18 or older and meet other eligibility requirements, such as being able to direct your own care.

Independent Living Waiver

For those who are on Medicaid, ages 18-64 and need more than six hours of care seven days a week. On this program, if you cannot direct your own care, you may designate someone else to do so, such as a family member or trusted friend.

Consumer Control Makes The Difference

Independent Living is based on the concept that people with disabilities know their needs best and have the right to make decisions regarding their daily lives. Consumer control means management by people with disabilities. At SCIL, the majority of both the board of directors and the staff are people who have disabilities. It also means that the people who receive our services (consumers) decide which services they want and set their own goals for increased independence. The independent living process at SCIL is one of teamwork.

Advisory Councils composed of people with disabilities are one way that SCIL keeps informed of the on-going needs and issues vital to our work toward achieving a barrier-free society.

Service Area

SCIL serves the counties of Christian, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster.

*ALL DONATIONS ARE
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*

Consumer Directed Services



Southwest Center for Independent Living

2864 S. Nettleton Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807
(417) 886-1188 Voice/TTY
Outside Spfd.: (800) 676-7245

Branson Office
120 Corporate Place
Branson, MO 65616
Hours: 8 AM-4:30 PM
(417) 239-2746 Voice/TTY
(877) 239-0082 Toll Free

