



Developmental Disabilities Administration

Self-Directed Services Training Series

Module 4: Self-Directed Waiver Services

Updated October 2025



Overview

- This training module will provide you with an overview of all Medicaid waiver services that are available under the Self-Directed Services delivery model
- This training is a summary with important information on this topic
- There is more information and requirements in the Medicaid waiver program applications, laws, regulations, guidance, and policies
- The most updated information regarding Self-Directed Services is published in the Self-Directed Services policy and manual that can be found on the DDA's website at <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/sdforms.aspx>
- Additional training modules are available that provide additional information on the topics presented in this overview training module

Medicaid Waiver Services Available to Self-Direct

<u>Assistive Technology and Services</u>	<u>Family Caregiver Training & Empowerment Services</u>	<u>Respite Care Services</u>
<u>Behavioral Support Services</u>	<u>Housing Support Services</u>	<u>Shared Living</u>
<u>Community Development Services</u>	<u>Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services</u>	<u>Support Broker Services</u>
<u>Day Habilitation</u>	<u>Live-In Caregiver Supports</u>	<u>Supported Living</u>
<u>Employment Services</u>	<u>Nursing Support Services</u>	<u>Transition Services</u>
<u>Environmental Assessment</u>	<u>Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports</u>	<u>Transportation Services</u>
<u>Environmental Modifications</u>	<u>Personal Supports</u>	<u>Vehicle Modifications</u>
<u>Family and Peer Mentoring Supports</u>	<u>Remote Support Services</u>	

Reference: [DDA-operated Medicaid Waiver Programs webpage](#)

What is Assistive Technology and Services?

This service supports you to stay safe and maintain or improve your independent skills. It includes an assessment of your technology needs and helps you choose, get, use, and maintain the technology.

Examples include:

- Speech and communication devices
- Visual or hearing support
- Computer applications
- Training to use the technology
- Monthly service fees

Assistive Technology and Services (2 of 2)

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Family members and other team members cannot be reimbursed for purchasing Assistive Technology.



What are Behavioral Support Services?

These services support you if you are experiencing, or are likely to experience difficulty at home or in the community as a result of behavioral, psychological, social or emotional challenges.

Behavioral Support Services include:

- Behavioral Assessment
- Creating a Behavior Plan
- Brief Support Implementation Services (direct assistance for caregivers to support you with your needs).

Behavioral Support Services

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



What are Community Development Services?

These services provide direct support so you can be more connected to your community. Staff will support you to develop or maintain social and other skills you need.

Community Development Services

Can be provided by:

- ✓ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Employees
- ✓ Relatives
- ✓ Legally Responsible Person
- ✓ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ✓ Budget Authority
- ✓ Employer Authority

What is Day Habilitation?

This is a service you can get during the day when you are not working. You can get support to build skills and participate in social and community activities. Support is provided in small and large groups of people in provider programs or in the community.

Day Habilitation

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

What are Employment Services?

These services help you think about what kind of job you want, get a job, and keep a job in the community.

Employment Services include:

- Discovery,
- Job Development,
- Self-Employment Development Supports,
- Co-worker Employment Supports,
- On-going Job Supports, and
- Follow Along Supports.

Employment Services (1 of 2)

Discovery, Job Development, Self-Employment Development Supports and Co-Worker Employment Supports

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



Employment Services (2 of 2)

Ongoing Job Supports and Follow Along Supports

Can be provided by:

- ✓ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Employees
- ✓ Relatives
- ✓ Legally Responsible Person
- ✓ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ✓ Budget Authority
- ✓ Employer Authority

What are Environmental Assessments?

This service is an assessment with you at home to see if changes to your home or technology would help support your independence, health, or safety.

Environmental Assessment

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Family members and other team members cannot be reimbursed for purchasing Environmental Assessments.



What are Environmental Modifications?

This service includes small changes to your home like grab bars, ramps, railings, warnings on walking surfaces, alert devices, and adaptations to electrical, phone and lighting systems.

Smart home devices that need to be attached to your home are included, such as:

- Voice activated door openers
- Blinds and shade openers

Environmental Modifications

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Family members and other team members cannot be reimbursed for purchasing Environmental Modifications.



What are Family and Peer Mentoring Supports?

This service connects you and your family to mentors with experiences like yours. They explain community services, programs and strategies they have used to achieve goals.

- Family mentors must have lived experience. That means they are a parent or family and have gone through similar things themselves.
- Peer mentors are people with disabilities who also have lived experience. They support others by sharing what they have learned.

Family and Peer Mentoring Supports

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified
Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



What are Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services?

These services cover educational materials, training programs, workshops and conferences that help your unpaid family caregiver.

Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) Providers can provide this service.

- An Organized Health Care Delivery System Provider is an organization approved by the state to help deliver and pay for certain services in the waiver.
- The Financial Management and Counseling Services providers are Organized Health Care Delivery System providers.

Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



What are Housing Support Services?

Housing Support Services are a short-term service that helps you find and keep your own home.

Housing Support Services

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services

These are services, activities, or supplies that you cannot get through the Community Pathways Waiver or through other Medicaid services.

The components of Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services are:

- Recruitment and Advertising,
- Day-to-Day Administrative Supports, and
- Other Goods and Services.

What is Recruitment and Advertising?

Participants who self-direct their services have the option to use up to \$500.00 in dedicated funding for staff recruitment and advertising. This could include:

- Developing print or electronic flyers for sharing job advertisements;
- Web or application based software to create flyers;
- Printing physical flyers to post in-person; or
- Memberships to staff registries and job posting sites.

Recruitment and Advertising

Can only be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authorities

- ☒ Budget Authority

Family members and other team members cannot be reimbursed for purchasing Recruitment and Advertising items.

What are Day-to-Day Administrative Supports?

This service provides assistance with your household management and scheduling their medical appointments. Household management means organizing and taking care of essential household needs and repairs for things like:

- Scheduling house maintenance and repairs,
- Scheduling snow removal, and
- Scheduling lawn care.

Day-to-Day Administrative Supports

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Vendors
- ☒ Employees
- ☒ Relatives

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Legally Responsible Persons
- ☐ Legal Guardians

Self-Directed Authorities

- ☒ Budget Authority
- ☒ Employer Authority

Tasks are decided by completing a Day-to-Day Administrative Supports Decision Tree Form.

What are Other Goods and Services?

You have the option to use cost savings or unallocated funds to purchase other allowable goods and services during your plan year. Allowable goods and services include:

- Activities that promote fitness,
- Fees for community programs and activities that include people without disabilities,
- Small kitchen appliances (when you live independently),
- Laundry appliances (when you live independently),
- Sensory items and safety equipment,
- Personal electronic devices,

What are Other Goods and Services?

You have the option to use cost savings or unallocated funds to purchase other allowable goods and services during your plan year. Allowable goods and services include:

- Fitness items,
- Toothbrushes,
- Weight loss program services,
- Dental services,
- Nutritional consultation and supplements, and
- Internet services (initial startup costs only).

Other Goods and Services

Can only be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authorities

- ☒ Budget Authority

Family members and other team members cannot be reimbursed for purchasing goods, services, or items.

What are Live-in Caregiver Supports?

A live-in caregiver is someone who provides support to you and lives with you in your home that you own or rent.

Note: Live-in Caregiver is a waiver service. Live-in caregiver exceptions for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) are different than the waiver service.

Live-in Caregiver Supports

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ☒ Relative (siblings only)

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

What are Nursing Support Services?

- This service supports a registered nurse licensed in Maryland to provide Nursing Consultation, Health Case Management, and Nursing Delegations services.
- Nursing Support Services do not include private duty nursing or skilled nursing services.

Nursing Support Services

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ☒ Vendors
- ☒ Employees

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority
- ☒ Employer Authority

What are Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports?

This service covers the cost of a training program, workshop, or conference you need to attend to learn more about how to develop self-advocacy skills, exercise your civil rights and develop skills needed to control and be responsible for your services.

Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDs) Providers can now provide this service.

- An Organized Health Care Delivery System Provider is an organization approved by the state to help deliver and pay for certain services in the waiver.
- The Financial Management and Counseling Services providers are Organized Health Care Delivery System providers.

Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified
Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



What are Personal Support Services?

This service helps you with different kinds of support needs if you live in your own home or your family's home and would like to improve your independent living skills.

Personal Support Services

Can be provided by:

- ✓ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Employees
- ✓ Relatives
- ✓ Legally Responsible Person
- ✓ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ✓ Budget Authority
- ✓ Employer Authority

What are Remote Support Services?

This service supports your independence in your home so that you don't have to rely on staff. Staff can be available to you as needed and can check on you through technology instead of in person.

Remote Support Services

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority



What are Respite Care Services?

This service is short-term support that gives you and your family, or other primary caregiver, a break from daily routines.

Respite Care Services may only be provided in:

- Your own home;
- The home of a Respite Care provider;
- A licensed residential site; and
- An overnight camp or a youth day camp that is certified by the Maryland Department of Health.

Respite Care Services

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ☒ Vendors
- ☒ Employees
- ☒ Relatives
- ☒ Legally Responsible Person
- ☒ Legal Guardian

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ A primary caregiver

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority
- ☒ Employer Authority

What is Shared Living?

This service helps you to build and keep skills needed for everyday life, including spending time with others. The service supports you to share a home and life experiences with another person, a couple or a family in the community that you choose. The service is based on trust and commitment you and the person, couple or family have with each other.

Shared Living

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives with the exception of siblings hired by the provider
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority



What are Support Broker Services?

A Support Broker is a person who helps you with the employer side of self-directing your services. They provide information and advice to help you make informed decisions related to managing the staff who provide your services and help you stay within your budget.

Support Broker Services

Can be provided by:

- ✓ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Employees
- ✓ Relatives
- ✓ Legally Responsible Person
- ✓ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

- ✓ Budget Authority
- ✓ Employer Authority

What is Supported Living?

This service supports you to use or develop new independent living skills in your own home. It includes help finding an apartment or house, roommates, and supports based on what you want and need.

Supported Living

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



What are Transition Services?

This service provides funding for certain expenses if you move from an institution to a group home or from a provider operated home to your own home in the community.

Transition Services can cover the cost of training staff before you move.

Transition Services

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian



What are Transportation Services?

This service helps you independently get to community activities. Your community is where you live, work, shop or spend your days. The service is provided based on the assessed need for this service in your Person-Centered Plan.

Transportation Services

Can be provided by:

- ☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- ☒ Vendors
- ☒ Employees

Self-Directed Authority

- ☒ Budget Authority

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

What are Vehicle Modifications?

This service covers the cost to you to modify (change) your vehicle so that it is more accessible, such as:

- An assessment to determine the participant's specific needs as a driver or passenger, or those of the family or caregiver,
- Help to change the vehicle,
- Help to cover the cost of repairs to the vehicle modifications, and
- Training on the use of the modifications.

This service does not include the cost of charging electric vehicles.

Vehicle Modifications

Can be provided by:

☒ Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider

Cannot be provided by:

- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Legally Responsible Person
- ☐ Legal Guardian

Self-Directed Authority

☒ Budget Authority



Resources

- [Self-Directed Services Comprehensive Policy](#)
- [Self -Directed Services Manual](#)
- [DDA Self-Directed Services Overview](#)
- [DDA Guide To Services](#)
- [DDA Easy-To-Understand Guide to Services](#)
- [October Waiver Changes and You Webpage](#)

Resources

- [Person-Centered Plan Overview](#)
- [DDA Person-Centered Planning Webpage](#)
- [Person-Centered Planning Manual](#)
- [DDA-operated Medicaid Waiver Programs Webpage](#)

Summary

- Of the services that can be self-directed, the participant:
 - Always has budget authority
 - Sometimes has employer authority
- Certain services require the use of a Licensed or DDA-Certified Provider
- Some services allow participants to hire family members, legally responsible people, or their legal guardians