



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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Dear Consumers, Families, and Service Providers,

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has issued a new directive expanding participant directed services to include:

- Personal assistance
- Independent living skills
- Supported employment

With participant directed services, consumers, or where appropriate, parents, conservators, or authorized representatives, have employer authority and responsibilities including choosing, scheduling and supervising workers.

Here's how it works. The consumer and/or family member identifies a person/people they want to provide the service(s). The person:

- ✓ Must have the ability to perform the work as verified by the consumer/family;
- ✓ Must be 18 years or older; and
- ✓ Cannot be the consumer's spouse or parent for personal assistance or independent living skills.

The consumer and/or family must use a Financial Management Service (FMS) provider to handle payroll, taxes, reporting, etc.:

- ✓ Regional center assists in identifying available FMS providers
- ✓ Regional center explains the types of FMS (Fiscal Agent vs. Co-Employer) to help the consumer/family determine the best type for their situation
- ✓ The consumer/family chooses which FMS provider they will use

Worker submits required paperwork to the chosen FMS provider

- ✓ Verification of age; and
- ✓ Employment and federal disclosure information.

The individual can begin working as soon as all required paperwork is received by the FMS and a separate vendorization of the consumer or individual providing the service is not required.

To review the DDS directive, please [click here](#) or visit our website at www.nlacrc.org.