IT'S YOUR CHOICE.







FAMILY-DIRECTED SUPPORTS

FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES



www.familydirected.dhw.idaho.gov

www.redesignforchildren.medicaid.idaho.gov

THE GOAL IS TO HELP FAMILIES ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS THEY NEED REGARDLESS OF THE PATHWAY CHOSEN.

As part of the Children's System Redesign, the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) is designing a new Medicaid option called 'Family-Directed Services'.

When it comes to choosing services, everyone has different needs and preferences. Additionally, every community offers a different amount and variety of services. The Family-Directed Supports option offers parents of children with developmental disabilities more choice and flexibility in purchasing the services and supports their children need.

In the Family-Directed Supports option, a child determined eligible for services will be assigned an individualized budget based on their child's strengths and assessed needs. Using this individualized budget, a family can plan a year of supports, therapy, services and goods to enable their child to live a full and inclusive life. The flexibility in this model allows parents to choose, design and direct services outside of the traditional menu of services.

For example, families would be able to contract with non-traditional providers or with traditional service providers that have the skills and experience desired by the family. The Family-Directed Supports pathway allows for creative and innovative ways to access services that the traditional pathway does not while still maintaining accountability required by federal authorities.

The Family-Directed Supports pathway is designed for families who want a more hands-on and flexible approach in determining the types of services and supports their children receive and more control over who provides them.

THE CHOICES...



'Traditional' Pathway

These two pathway options offer two different levels of control and responsibility over your child's services and supports related to their developmental disability. The differences between the two pathways are explained in this booklet.

How IT WORKS:



THE FAMILY-DIRECTED SUPPORTS PATHWAY...

A child determined eligible for services will be assigned an individualized budget based on a child's strengths and assessed needs.

The family hires a Support Broker who will assist develop and manage services. The Support Broker helps develop the Supports and Spending Plan, budget the money, and monitor services.

The plan is authorized by DHW. A Fiscal Employer Agent takes care of the financial considerations, including paying for authorized services and goods, withholding applicable taxes, and providing monthly expenditure reports.

Together you, your Support Broker, and DHW will work together to assure that your child's health and safety needs are met. Choosing the
Family-Directed Pathway
allows more control
over your child's services, if
you wish to take more
responsibility for
coordination and
management of
services.

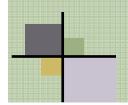


THE TRADITIONAL PATHWAY...

A child determined eligible for services will be assigned an individualized budget based on a child's strengths and assessed needs.

Following a needs assessment and familycentered planning, a service plan will be written. You will choose from a menu of Medicaid providers who provide a predetermined array of services and supports designed to meet your child's needs.

The amount of services and supports you receive will be determined by an individualized budget based on your child's strengths and assessed needs. In The
Traditional Pathway
you choose from a
predetermined menu of
services and supports
provided by Medicaid
providers.





WHICH FAMILIES MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE FAMILY-DIRECTED SUPPORTS PATHWAY?

Families who want to:

- Gain more control over the resources that are available for their child and have more freedom to create and access untraditional services and supports.
- Follow and manage an individualized budget that is based on their child's assessed needs.
- Recruit, hire and train their own service providers, including backup. (can contract with an existing agency, friends, relatives, and neighbors)
- Set wages for their service providers based on a service and supports budget. (This budget will be the same regardless of which pathway you choose.)
- Maintain records and monitor services and spending, set schedules, and submit timesheets for their providers.



WHICH FAMILIES MIGHT CHOOSE THE TRADITIONAL PATHWAY?

Families who:

- Feel their child's needs are being met through the 'Traditional' Medicaid menu of services.
- Don't have time for the responsibility of administrating supports and services (even with the assistance of a Support Broker).

