



MEMO

Department of DISABILITY & AGING

To: 1915(c) Waiver Providers

From: Jordan Allen, Deputy Commissioner of Program Operations, DDA

Date: December 19, 2024

Subject: Memo 2024-4, 1915(c) Waiver Renewals, Effective 1/1/25

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved Tennessee's renewals to its three 1915(c) waivers for five years. This includes:

- Statewide Waiver
- Comprehensive Aggregate Cap (CAC) Waiver
- Self-Determination Waiver

This is intended to provide a high-level overview of key changes made to the waivers, many of which have been discussed for several years. DDA and TennCare program leaders will communicate additional protocols and information to ISCs and providers to support the implementation of new services and other changes. All changes made to the waivers can be found in the waiver documents under the "Major Changes" section. These documents are available on the DDA website at:

<https://www.tn.gov/disability-and-aging/provider-information/waiver-information.html>

Addition of Consumer Direction to the Statewide and CAC Waivers

Consumer Direction is now available in the SW and CAC waivers for Personal Assistance, Respite, and Community Transportation services. In Consumer Direction, the person or authorized representative employs the people who provide services—they work for the person (instead of a provider). This means that they must do the things an employer would do – like hire, train, schedule, supervise, and even fire workers.

DDA uses CDTN as the Fiscal Employer Agent (FEA). Independent Support Coordinators (ISC) should be discussing this option with families and providing support to them if they choose this option. DDA will be communicating more information to ISCs in the coming days.

Employment Informed Choice

Starting on January 1, 2025, the Employment Informed Choice process must be completed within 30 days of authorizing Facility-Based Day Services. DDA regional plans review staff will be checking that the EIC process and corresponding data have been completed for everyone requesting FBD services. If someone is of working age and not exempt from the EIC process, then the EIC form must also be completed prior to FBD service authorization.

New Supported Employment Service—Self-Employment Exploration

A new Exploration service, Self-Employment Exploration, will be available to people who know they want to work, but want to explore if self-employment is right for them. This is a separate employment service, and people CAN receive Exploration and Self-Employment Exploration in the same year if they choose.



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