

What is Self-Direction?

Self-Direction for a person with developmental or intellectual disabilities provides programs and supports that are customized uniquely and specifically to that individual, allowing them to have control over their decision-making and day to day life. Some people can clearly express their wishes and needs, and are able to make choices independently. Those who may need more assistance, can become Self-Directed by having family, guardians or trusted professionals help them choose how they want to spend their time and with whom.

Commonly used Services available:

Self-Direction budgets provide funding for hiring staff

- Individualized Goods and Services (IDGS)
- Family Reimbursement Respite
- Housing Subsidy

For more information: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/types-services>

Is Self-Direction Right for You?

- You want more flexibility with your services and schedule
- You are ready to make decisions about your services on your own or with guidance
- You want to take more responsibility for managing your services

How to start Self-Direction?

Understand Self-Direction

Work with your Care Manager to learn about Self-Direction and determine if it is a good fit for you.

Determine Your Self-Direction Budget Amount

Work with your Care Manager to complete the OPWDD Approved Needs Assessment Tool to determine your budget amount.

Hire a Support Broker and Fiscal Intermediary

Your DDRO Liaison can give you a list of Support Brokers and Fiscal Intermediaries.
We provide both services and would be happy to serve you!

Develop Your Self-Direction Budget

Work with your Support Broker to build the services that you want into your budget.

Submit Your Budget for Approval

Work with your Support Broker to submit your budget for approval to the Fiscal Intermediary and your local OPWDD Regional Office.

Hold Your Launch Meeting

When your budget is approved, your Fiscal Intermediary will meet with you to review your budget and your responsibilities in Self-Direction.

Celebrating 20 Years of Self-Direction

About Us

Independent Support Services, Inc. is a leading Fiscal Intermediary (FI) not-for-profit agency, providing administrative support to people Self-Directing throughout New York State. As the FI, ISS supports the implementation of Self-Direction by allowing individuals and their families to co-manage their budgets, hire and manage their own staff and choose their own services and supports.

Mission and Philosophy

Our mission is to provide person-centered, self-directed and individualized supports to people with developmental disabilities to assist them in making choices that will lead them to actualize their dreams. We believe every person with a disability can lead a Self-Determined life through the empowerment of making their own decisions. We believe every person with a developmental/Intellectual disability can lead a Self-Determined life and achieve success by being empowered to make his or her own decisions. The road to making your own path is paved with inspiration, freedom of expression and the right to be self-reliant.

ISS Facts

ISS was founded in 2003 and today serves more than 1,800 participants on Long Island, NYC, the Hudson Valley, and the Capital and Central Districts.

We are a leading Fiscal Intermediary throughout New York State.

In addition to being an FI, our Long Island and Monticello offices provide Broker and Self-Direction Coordination services.

To avoid conflict of interests we do not provide direct services.

ISS produced an original documentary "Self-Direction – Make Your Own Path"

To view this film: <https://www.issny.org/wp-content/uploads/self-direction-make-your-own-path.mp4>

ISS collaborated with The Univ of Minn on sustainability

To view the research results: https://www.issny.org/wp-content/uploads/SDS_Self-Direction_NY_07152021.pdf

How to reach us

Phone: 845.794.5218

Email: intake@issny.org

Website: www.issny.org