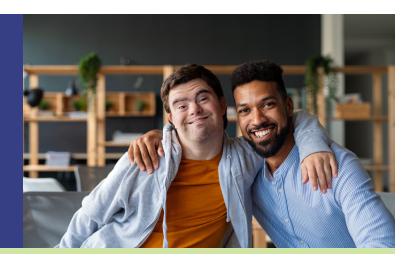
# Supports Brokers

Assisting and Empowering You to Self-Direct



#### **Getting Started**

In New Jersey, people can self-direct all or some of their Home and Community Based Services, made available through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Supports Program or Community Care Program. Self-directed services are provided by a person you hire, known as a self-directed employee (SDE), or a service provided by a business/vendor that serves the general public, and are paid through use of a fiscal intermediary. Your Support Coordinator will work with you and, as needed, your family to help you understand what it means to self-direct by sharing information, as well as:

- Talking with you to learn about your strengths, needs, and interests, and what you want and don't want in your life
- Supporting you to describe your life goals
- Identifying different types of support that can be used to help you achieve your life goals, including DDD services, relationship-based supports (such as a family member or neighbor), community resources, technology, and other state and local service systems
- Explaining how self-directed services are different from provider-managed services, and which DDD services can be self-directed and which cannot
- Describing the role of the fiscal intermediary and the differences between the two options Agency with Choice and Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent
- Sharing information about the resources you use when you self-direct one or more of your services

A fiscal intermediary will be used to process payment and assigned tasks related to your approved self-directed services.

When you choose to self-direct, you can hire a Supports Broker.

**Supports Brokerage** is a service that is available in the DDD Supports Program and Community Care Program. Your Support Coordinator can help you to identify a Supports Brokerage agency. A **Supports Broker** can help you coordinate and maintain your self-directed services. They empower you to take control of your self-directed services, grow community connections, and direct the life you want.

#### **Learn More**

- Check out Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey by The Boggs Center: <a href="https://boggscenter.rwjms.rutgers.">https://boggscenter.rwjms.rutgers.</a>
  edu/resources/publications/understanding-self-directed-services-in-new-jersey-and-the-role-of-the-supports-broker
- Visit the Office of Education on Self-Directed Services webpage: <a href="https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/community/education">https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/community/education</a>
- Email <u>DDD.OESDS@dhs.nj.gov</u>





### Role and Responsibilities of a Supports Broker

#### **Employer Related Support**

A **Self-Directed Employee (SDE)** is a worker hired and managed by the person and paid through a fiscal intermediary.

A Supports Broker can assist with hiring, keeping, and managing Self-Directed Employees based on what you need help doing.

This may include **assistance** that **empowers** you to:

- Plan how many SDEs you need and when you will need them
- Recruit and hire your SDEs
- Prepare your SDEs for the job
- Manage your SDEs



A Supports Broker can **assist** you with finding local resources that can help you meet your needs, build connections, and be included in your community.

This may include **assistance** with:

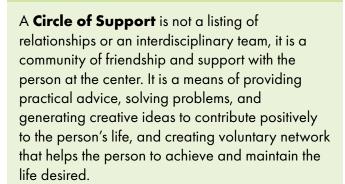
- Identifying local resources and activities that are available to people with and without disabilities
- Planning based on resources and activities that match your needs and preferences
- Determining how the resource/activity will be paid for (if there is a cost)
- Ensuring the community businesses/vendors are able to be paid through your program budget, by a fiscal intermediary

## Maintaining Self-Directed Services and a Self-Directed Life

A Supports Broker can **assist** you with maintaining your self-directed services and the life you want.

This may include **assistance** with:

- Creating and facilitating Circles of Support
- Planning for Future Supports and Life
- Planning for Independent Living
- Locating Non-DDD Supportive Services (e.g. energy, food, clothing assistance)



- Resourcing Inclusive Communities, 2019



