

Consumer Directed Care

Ohio's PASSPORT Medicaid waiver program helps Medicaid-eligible older Ohioans get nursing home level of long-term services and supports they need to stay in their homes or other community settings, rather than enter nursing homes. PASSPORT starts with a pre-admission screening on the telephone to determine a consumer's preliminary Medicaid eligibility and care needs, and to provide information about the variety of long-term care options available. Once a consumer is determined PASSPORT eligible, a case manager works with them to develop a package of in-home services to be provided by local service providers. The case manager then monitors the care for quality and changes the care plan as necessary.

Consumer Direction Opportunities allow you, the PASSPORT consumer, more choice and control over the delivery of your home and community-based services. It also allows you or your authorized representative to hire your own direct service workers from a **Choices-Home Care Attendant Service (C-HCAS)** or **Personal Care Service**. You will receive training to learn the skills to direct your services.

Consumer Direction is optional, voluntary and is not appropriate for everyone. With both service options, you or your authorized representative must demonstrate the ability to: advocate for yourself; know your rights; monitor quality; verbalize your desire to direct the services; have open communication and use problem-solving skills.

With both options, you and your care manager agree that a consumer directed service plan is right for you. Then two of you develop your care plan. You do the recruiting, hiring, training and educating of your workers. You also manage scheduling, supervising and firing your workers, and are responsible for resolving worker or service issues with your worker directly. You and your care manager collaborate with the financial management service to track service hours and payroll. The care worker cannot be a parent, step-parent, spouse, guardian or Power of Attorney (POA) or Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA).

- The **C-HCAS** option offers this advantage: You train the worker on initial service tasks and provide ongoing training. Additional training can be required, if needed. You negotiate your worker's hourly pay rate, with care manager input.
- The **Personal Care Service** option offers this advantage: The worker must be a State Tested Nurse Aid (STNA), Home Health Aid (HHA), or have completed a 60-hour ODA-approved training program & 12 hours of continuing education, yearly. The worker works for the state-contracted hourly pay rate.

Is Self-Directed Care Right for You?

PASSPORT provides options for some participants to direct their own care.

Self-directed care may be right for you if you agree with any of these statements:

- I am satisfied with the home and community-based services that help me so I can continue living in the community.
- I have special health needs (e.g., memory impairment, chronic health problem or disability) or cultural needs (e.g., language) that could be better met by a service where I can use workers that I know, like my family or friends.
- My life could be improved if I had more control over my services and could hire workers that I know and tell them what to do and when.
- I can describe how taking responsibility for my services will benefit me.
- I am interested in managing the help that I need so I can live in the community.
- I can write out a plan, on my own or with help, for the activities that help me stay in the community.
- I can take on the responsibility as an employer of finding, hiring, and managing workers myself or if someone helped me.
- I know someone who can help me with the responsibility of being an employer, if needed.

Your **PASSPORT administrative agency** can help you better understand self-directed care options.

[Source: Ohio Department of Aging /Home and Community Based Services](#)