Participant-Directed Goods and Services is often called PDGS for short. It is a service available through the SELF Waiver that can help you with services, equipment, or supplies that you need when other programs or resources are not available.

**Start with Service Planning**

The first step to planning for services is to get a good idea of what you need help with right now. Your county board of developmental disabilities uses a few different assessment tools to get to know you, what support you need, and what support you might be able to get from the people around you.

Your service and support administrator, or SSA, can help you pull together different resources to meet the needs from your assessment. Those resources can be things like

- unpaid supports, including your family, friends, or neighbors,
- items that you and your family pay for,
- services available through your Ohio Medicaid State Plan benefits,
- local services through a county board of developmental disabilities,
- and services available using a waiver.

**Add PDGS in Your Service Plan**

Talk with your SSA about what you need

Discuss how your needs are being met now, what needs are not being met, and what is or is not working for you.

Think about what else you need help with

Your SSA can talk with you about support available through local programs, by using technology, through the SELF Waiver, or from other resources that can help meet your need.

Find out what works for you

Discuss what services, equipment, or supplies can help meet your need. Your service plan should include information about things that work for you and what outcomes you would like to achieve using this support.

Your SSA can add PDGS as a funding source for something that works for you only if there are no other funding sources available to meet your need.

**PDGS Requirements**

Because every person has different needs and different resources available, there is no list of exactly what PDGS will cover. Instead, the service, equipment, or supplies must

- be something you need to stay healthy and safe,
- be the least expensive item or service that addresses your need,
- and be something that helps you directly and is not something purchased for people that support you.

It must do at least one of these

- decrease your need for a different service of the SELF Waiver,
- help you to be more involved in your community or family,
- help you to be safer in your home,
- offer you more independence,
- or help you improve personal, social, or physical skills.

For more information, read [OAC 5123-9-45](#).

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