

The Direct Line

News from Director John Martin

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

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Independent Provider Changes: Overview

Prior to phasing out our independent providers, DODD will change its waivers to include something called “Employer Authority.” This means that individuals and families may employ their direct support staff, or work with an agency that will employ workers on their behalf. This allows individuals and families to hire, train, supervise, and fire staff, while an entity called a fiscal intermediary (which is like a payroll service) or a partnering agency will pay them. When you work with a fiscal intermediary, this is known as Common Law Employer Authority. When you work with a partnering agency, this is known as Co-employment Employer Authority.

This will mean that many independent providers will be able to transition from being an independent provider to working for you or your family through the use of a fiscal intermediary. The advantage of this is your provider will not have to worry about making payments to Social Security or paying their taxes because the fiscal intermediary will do that for them. They also will work with you to make sure your paperwork and service records are correct.

What does this mean for me?

I'm an individual who works with Independent Providers	I'm an Independent Provider
Your independent providers will be able to transition from being an independent provider to working for you or your family through the use of a fiscal intermediary, or through co-employment with an agency	You will be able to transition from being an independent provider to working for the individuals and families you serve through the use of a fiscal intermediary, or through co-employment with an agency
I'm an individual who receives services through an agency	I'm a provider who works for an agency
You will see no changes .	You will see no changes .

What is DODD doing?

DODD will add a self-directed option to the Level One and Individual Options Waivers; the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver already has a self-directed option.

Also, the State of Ohio is convening a stakeholder group to address concerns and work with the field to help individuals and providers transition to the new model.

In April, DODD will host a webinar with a fiscal intermediary so you can learn more about Employer Authority, and ask questions. Watch for more information – if you aren't able to attend, you can watch an online replay.

Where can I learn more?

- **Online:** Go to DODD.Ohio.gov/OurFuture for more information, including frequently asked questions
- **Email:** Receive general news and information in your email inbox – sign up for Pipeline <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/>
- **By phone:** Call the DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline toll-free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO) or 614-728-5311

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director