

# Independent Choices

## What is Independent Choices?

The Independent Choices program is a Medicaid program administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services. Independent Choices is a flexible program that lets you take charge of your own needs by providing cash benefits for in-home services. The monthly benefit allows you to hire your own service providers and pay them directly.

## Who is Eligible?

You must:

- Be eligible for Medicaid long-term services in your home;
- Have had a stable living situation for the past three months as shown by managing your money to meet your food, shelter and personal care needs;
- Have the ability to choose your own service providers and train them to provide the help you need in your own home;
- Pay the service provider for work performed; and

- Maintain a designated bank account separate from your other bank accounts for direct deposit of the Independent Choices cash benefit.

## What are the benefits of Independent Choices?

Under traditional Medicaid services:

- You pay DHS for your share of your services, and DHS pays the provider;
- DHS designates the services that must be provided; and
- Your provider must work for the established Medicaid rate.

With Independent Choices:

- You will receive a monthly, direct-deposit cash benefit based on DHS's determination of your service needs;
- You will use that money to pay your service provider directly for your in-home services;



- You are not limited to paying your service provider the established Medicaid rate;
- Your funds in the designated account will not be counted as a resource towards some government or community assistance programs or low income assistance programs; and
- You may have someone else like a family member or friend act as your representative and take on all of the financial, tax and legal obligations.



## How to apply

To apply for the Independent Choices Program, contact the office serving seniors and people with disabilities in your area. To find your local office on the Internet go to:

[www.oregon.gov/dhs/spwpsd/offices/shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/spwpsd/offices/shtml)

Or call:

**1-800-282-8096**



You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Medicaid Long Term Care System Unit at 503-378-3486 or email [dhs.forms@state.or.us](mailto:dhs.forms@state.or.us). We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

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