



## How Do Consumers Sign Up?

Anyone who is Medicaid eligible and interested in the program should contact his/her local county Department of Social Services (DSS).

A caseworker and nurse will evaluate you to make sure that you are right for the program. Fiscal intermediaries do not evaluate initial or ongoing program eligibility.

Once you have been approved the county will refer your case to a fiscal intermediary. Once the FI receives the referral the company will contact you!



## CHOICE

CDPAANYS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization operating with the following mission:

*The Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State supports consumer directed assistance providers and recipients in all counties of New York State, offering supportive services, including, but not limited to: advocacy, systems change, and the promotion of consumer control and self determination.*

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# THE CONSUMER DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE



## CDPAANYS

*AUTONOMY, EMPOWERMENT,  
RESPONSIBILITY  
through  
the Consumer Directed Program*

*No American should have to live in a nursing home or state institution if that individual can live in a community with the right mix of affordable supports.*

-- Donna Shalala, Former Secretary of Health & Human Services.

# The Definition of Self Direction

## Who Can Use the Program?

To be eligible for CDPAP, an individual must be eligible for:

- Medicaid
- Home care services
- Be self-directing or have a self-directing adult who is willing and competent to assume the program's roles and responsibilities.

The definition of self-directing is:

"The consumer or surrogate is self-directing as stated in the following definition:

- Has the desire and ability to make life style choices;
- Has the ability to organize the environment to implement those choices and;
- Has the capability to understand the consequences of those actions and willingness to take responsibility for them."

## Differences Between CDPAP and "Traditional" Health Care

Traditional home care programs have what are called "levels." There are certain tasks that a "homemaker" may provide, others that a "personal care aide" can provide, others a "home health aide" can provide, others a "Licensed Practical Nurse" or "Registered Nurse" can provide. CDPAP, on the other hand, has one level of employee – the personal assistant (PA).

What makes the two programs very different are:

1. who selects the PA;
2. who trains the PA and how the PA is trained;
3. who supervises the PA;
4. how the tasks are done;

5. who terminates the PA (if the employment relationship isn't working.)

Since you, the consumer, assume employer responsibilities, (to **recruit, hire, train, supervise and terminate**) the rules shift a bit. Instead of a nurse from an agency, you are the one who is directing your "Plan of Care" that was developed by the county caseworker and nurse who performed your program assessment. Your authorized hours are based on this plan and it is your county caseworker who has the authority to



As a grassroots, volunteer organization, CDPAANYS is absolutely unique. Our passion for the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance model (CDPAP) and the empowerment and autonomy it offers has fostered a paradigm shift of independence for people with disabilities in New York State.

CDPAANYS stands unrivaled for our advocacy focus – representing the consumers' interests, as well as the organizations facilitating the model. As with the core tenet of the Independent Living Philosophy, we represent "Nothing About Us Without Us," we aren't paternalistic professionals.



approve how many hours can be paid, per week, to personal assistants **who you must find (recruit) and hire.**

You may be able to legally train your personal assistant to do tasks that a nurse would have to do under traditional home health care programs. This is possible because: 1) you are training and supervising the personal assistant to perform a task in the way that you want it done, 2) there is an amendment to the *Nurse Practice Act* that legally allows "non-nurses" in this program to perform "nursing" tasks because you are training and supervising your PA.