

Independent Facilitators

An "independent Facilitator" is a person, selected and directed by the participant, who is not providing services to the participant and is not employed by a person providing services to the participant.

The facilitator helps with the exploration of different life options and paths. The facilitator must be familiar with state law and the Self Determination Program rules.

They assist with developing and determining how to spend the individual budget to meet the person's life plan.

They help in managing the budget and negotiating rates paid to staff.

They assist in locating, accessing and coordinating services.

They can act as an advocate if the person cannot advocate on their own.

The cost of the independent facilitator is paid out of the individual budget.

The regional center service coordinator can provide the service if so selected, and this will be provided **free of charge**.

Training shall be received "in the principles of self-determination, the person-centered planning process, and the other responsibilities" described in law.

For Discussion:

What type of training/certification do you think needs to be developed so that the individual in the role of the independent facilitator provides an ethical service in the best interest of the individual served?