



Improving Consumer-Directed Services

HF 4568/SF 4420

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Consumer-Directed Community Supports (CDCS) is Minnesota's self-directed care option under Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers and is used by thousands of people with disabilities across the state. Individuals who elect to use the CDCS option receive an annual waiver budget from the county, and then choose how to spend that budget within the parameters of the program. CDCS participants currently experience a variety of obstacles that inhibit their ability to receive services. There is vast confusion with how budgets are calculated. Moreover, counties have adopted their own policies to administer the program, leading to different outcomes for participants based on what county they live in.

We seek changes to:

- Require lead agencies to provide detailed information on how the CDCS budgets are calculated, the difference in services if a traditional waiver was chosen, and appeal rights and instructions.
- Establish that county CDCS policies cannot be inconsistent with DHS policy and have no force or effect of law in an appeal.
- Require the commissioner to amend the waiver plan to:
 - ✓ Clarify that goods and services that directly benefit a CDCS recipient can be used by others.
 - ✓ Clarify that goods and services that promote community integration are allowed.
 - ✓ Clarify that individuals providing personal assistance, including parents, can be paid at an enhanced rate if necessary to meet the recipient's assessed needs.



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