

# **CDASS: Self-Direction finally available in Colorado for people with IDD**

***Contributed by Hanni Raley, Assistant Executive Director***

After many years of planning and process building, people who receive Supported Living Services (SLS) are finally able to self-direct specific services. Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services, commonly referred to as CDASS, took effect Aug. 15 and is considered an optional new service delivery method versus a new service. Individuals can now direct and manage the attendants who provide specific services, including personal care, homemaker, and health maintenance services, rather than working through an agency.

You have probably heard from The Arc of Aurora and other publications that the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) received approval for the expansion of Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) into the Supported Living Services (SLS) waiver in 2017, but implementation has been delayed to make sure that systems would be able to bill and administer services and that it would be functional once people wanted to begin using it.

CDASS empowers individuals to hire, train, and manage attendants of their choice to best fit their needs. People can hire someone they know or access the CDASS Attendant Directory to locate and connect with caregivers who are a good match. To qualify for CDASS, an individual must demonstrate a need for personal care, homemaker, or health maintenance services. Individuals must also be in stable health and able to direct their own services (signed off on by a physician) or have someone available and prepared to be assigned as their Authorized Representative to assist in directing CDASS services.

[The Consumer Direct Care Network of Colorado](#) conducts the required training for you and is a resource hub for anyone participating in the CDASS program. The required training provides the tools and information you will need to complete your enrollment, follow-up on next steps, and be on the road to self-direction. You will also choose a Financial Management Services (FMS) provider to assist with all of the details surrounding payroll and paperwork necessary for your chosen attendant.

Interested to see if CDASS is right for you? Look at additional information from [The Consumer Direct Care Network](#) and also from [The Arc of Adams County](#), who has provided a handy, 3-part guide for families and individuals considering CDASS.

Still interested? Your first step should be to contact your Service Coordinator at your Community Centered Board (CCB) to determine need, eligibility, and next steps. As always, feel free to reach out to your Individual Advocate at The Arc of Aurora if you need help!