

HB352/SB362: Unfavorable regarding ARTICLE—HEALTH—GENERAL, Section 7-101 and Section 7-409

- **Remove any reference to ARTICLE—HEALTH—GENERAL Section 7-101 and Section 7-409 on page 20. Leave all provisions of The Self-Direction Act of 2022 intact.**
 - **Institute a workgroup to study the utilization of funds in self-direction model as compared to provider-manager/traditional model.**
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- BRFA proposes to undo a provision of The Self-Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) by allowing a cap on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services IFDGS to be reinstated.
 - All the provisions of The Act were just realized on July 1, 2023. This is inadequate time to determine what the utilization impact of The Act's provisions will be despite testimony from DDA at the Budget Hearings.
 - Budget analysis of the DDA FY2025 budget indicates so far in FY2024 only \$557,000 more has been spent than would have been possible had the \$5000 cap remained on IFDGS this fiscal year.
 - Assuming this represents six months of spending, that would equal about \$1,114,000 annually or less than .05% of the proposed \$2.1 billion DDA budget and only about \$371 for each of the 3000 people who self-direct.
 - DDA testimony at the Budget Hearing projected a potential overall addition to the budget of \$270,000,000 with very little, if any, data to back this figure up.
 - DDA waivers have ALWAYS called for parity of budgets between the two service models, but only recently has it been achieved.
 - Access to these funds was still denied by DDA policy and procedures until the waiver amendment effective 7-1-2023, which was a requirement of The Act. Undoing IFDGS will require an amendment to the current waiver.
 - One concern of The Act was the sustainability of self-direction when family is no longer able to provide supports to maintain the program, hire staff, and keep the participant's household running smoothly.
 - DDA placed funding for this administrative position/support under IFDGS when it does not appropriately belong there (see DDA policy and CMS definition of IFDGS attached)
 - The Day-to-Day Administrative support is a component of the rate for each service (see attached breakdown of the rates).
 - The Self-Direction Act of 2022 was the result of a six-month study that included officials from the Maryland Department of Health, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), officials from the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid services, state legislators, state advocacy groups, and stakeholders.
 - It was unanimously approved by both the House and Senate of Maryland, with all members of the Health and Government Operations Committee signing on as co-sponsors.
 - PLEASE GIVE IT TIME TO WORK AS INTENDED BY REMOVING ANY CHANGES TO HEATH 7-101 and 7-409 in HB352/SB362.
 - If concerned about budget utilization and effect on DDA funding, PLEASE INSTITUTE A WORKGROUP TO STUDY THE ISSUES WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT AND REVISIT NEXT YEAR.

Direct Care Staff:

**Employment-Related Expenses
(Other costs incurred in employment of all staff)**

1. Salaries for direct support staff (all DSP levels: I, II, & III)
2. Hourly wages for direct support staff
3. Direct time portion of overtime wages
4. Contracted staff providing direct support

- 1. Insurance**
FICA
FUTA/SUTA
Unemployment
Workers' comp
Medical
- 1. Benefits**
Tuition reimbursement
Retirement
Fringe Benefits
Gifts
- 2. Vacations/Holiday/ Other pay**
Paid Time off
Bonuses
Overtime portion of overtime wages
- 3. Hiring Expenses**
Fingerprinting
Background checks

**Program Support
(Cost required to provide service (wages/goods) specific to the program, not directly providing the service)**

1. Supplies & costs related to the specific service offered
2. Salary or hourly wage for Supervisors or Directors of Services
3. Program support wages
4. Food related to specific services
5. Activity costs
6. Contracted services
7. Quality assurance activities
8. Medical supplies
9. Equipment costs
10. IT expenses
11. Share of direct care staff documentation time

**Transportation
(costs incurred by transportation staff, transportation time, other transportation related costs)**

1. Driver hourly wages/salaries
2. Salary or hourly wages of Vehicle Fleet Manager or Driver Manager
3. Share of Direct Care Staff wages commuting on the clock
4. Vehicle costs/maintenance/ insurance
5. Vehicle depreciation
6. Tags, title, and registrations
7. Other transportation costs (tolls, tickets, rentals, etc.)

**Training
(costs related to staff training, certifications, etc)**

- 1. Training**
Training staff hourly wages
Third-party training costs
- 2. Conferences/conventions**
- 3. Share of direct care staff time**
New hire training
Staff development
- 4. Continuing Education**

**General & Administrative
(costs regardless of type of business (i.e., common to all businesses))**

- 1. Administrative salaries**
- 2. Contracted administrative staff hourly wage**
- 3. Office rent**
- 4. Office utilities**
Water, electric, etc
Phone bill
Cable
Internet
- 5. Office supplies**
- 6. Management & executive salaries**
- 7. General insurance**
- 8. Advertising**
- 9. Legal & accounting**
- 10. Member dues & fees**
- 11. Equipment costs**
- 12. IT expenses**

16. Individual Directed Goods and Services

Core Service Definition

Individual Directed Goods and Services are services, equipment or supplies not otherwise provided through this waiver or through the Medicaid state plan that address an identified need in the service plan (including improving and maintaining the participant's opportunities for full membership in the community) and meet the following requirements: the item or service would decrease the need for other Medicaid services; AND/OR promote inclusion in the community; AND/OR increase the participant's safety in the home environment; AND, the participant does not have the funds to purchase the item or service or the item or service is not available through another source. Individual Directed Goods and Services are purchased from the participant-directed budget. Experimental or prohibited treatments are excluded. Individual Directed Goods and Services must be documented in the service plan.

Instructions

Modify or supplement the core definition to reflect the scope of individual directed goods and services in the waiver.

Guidance

- The coverage of this service permits a state to authorize the purchase of goods and services that are not otherwise offered in the waiver or the state plan.
- The coverage of this service is limited to waivers that incorporate the Budget Authority participant direction opportunity.
- Goods and services purchased under this coverage may not circumvent other restrictions on the claiming of FFP for waiver services, including the prohibition against claiming for the costs of room and board.
- The specific goods and services that are purchased under this coverage must be documented in the service plan.
- The goods and services that are purchased under this coverage must be clearly linked to an assessed participant need established in the service plan.



Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services
Self-Directed Services
7/1/2023

Below is a tool for people who are self-directing their services and their teams to use to understand what Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) may and may not be requested. This tool is meant to complement DDA's Self Directed Services Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services policy/guidance.

What are IFDGS?

- Services, equipment, activities, or supplies that support people who self-direct
- Help meet listed needs in the PCP
- Help maintain or increase independence
- Cannot be provided through the waiver program or a state plan

There are three categories of IFDGS:

- Recruitment and Advertising
- Day to Day Administrator
- Other Goods and Services

Recruitment and Advertising

- Helps to fund activities that support staff recruitment for jobs
- **Can include:**
 - Making print or electronic flyers for sharing job advertisements
 - Software to create flyers (Adobe, Canva, Vista)
 - Printing physical flyers
 - Staff registries (Indeed.com, Care.com)
- Dedicated funding comes from the detailed service authorization in the Person-Centered Plan (PCP)
- Must request in an Initial, Annual, or Revised PCP



Day to Day Administrator

- Direct and non-direct support to the person self-directing
- People can hire an employee or vendor to be the Day to Day Administrator, including relatives, guardians, or legally responsible individuals
- **Can include:**
 - Household management and scheduling
 - Employee scheduling
 - Scheduling appointments
 - Personal money management
- **Exclusions:**
 - The Day to Day Administrator cannot provide any other service at the same time
 - A person's Support Broker cannot be their Day to Day Administrator
 - The Day to Day Administrator cannot work more than 40 hours per week unless authorized by the DDA
- Funding must come from cost savings in the budget
- Must request in an Initial, Annual, or Revised PCP

Other Goods and Services

Included	Not Included
Activities that promote health	Goods and services that compromise health and safety
Fees for programs/activities that promote socialization and independence	Experimental goods or treatments
Small kitchen appliances for independent meal planning	Co-payments for medical devices
Laundry appliances to promote independence and self-care	Over the counter medications or homeopathic services



Sensory and safety items related to disability	Items used solely for entertainment or recreation
Personal electronic devices	Monthly cable television fees or services
Toothbrushes and dental services not covered by insurance	Monthly telephone fees
Weight Loss programs and services	Room and board
Nutritional consultation and supplements	Food
Internet services	Utility charges
Other goods and services that meet standards	Tobacco, alcohol, Marijuana or, illegal drugs
	Vacation expenses
	Vehicle insurance, maintenance, or other transportation-related events
	Clothing, shoes, or other personal items
	Haircuts, nail services, and spa treatments
	Tuition
	Staff bonuses
	Subscriptions
	Training
	Services in hospitals
	Cost of travel, meals, and overnight lodging for staff/family/support
	Service animals



	Exercise rooms, swimming pools, and hottubs
	Fines, debts, legal fees, advocacy fees
	Contribution to savings accounts (including ABLE)
	Country club membership/dues
	Leased/purchased vehicles

Other IFDGS must be requested using the [IFDGS Request Form](#)

SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES - BUDGET SHEET

Enter Approved DDA Budget Allocation from the DSA here

	\$0.00	\$0.00
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SDS Budget Total Unallocated Funds

Developmental Disabilities Administration

PCP Status: Initial, Annual, Revised, or FMCS Change

Name: _____
 Number of Months Left in Plan: 12.00

Effective Date: _____
 Number of Weeks Left in Plan: 52.143

Annual Plan Date: _____
 Type of Waiver: _____

Version 11/15/2023

Add any general notes that may be helpful for the team or FMCS as needed

Financial Management and Counseling Service (Required to Self-Direct)

The Financial Management and Counseling Service (FMCS) is a service that is now a part of your budget . Choose from the Approved FMCS Agencies and include the rate per month provided by the FMCS. If the FMCS fees change in the middle of the year, include the rates in the two rows.	Chosen FMCS Agency	Rate per Month	# of Months	Budget Total
				\$0.00
				\$0.00

Notes

- The SDS Budget Sheet must not exceed the Approved DDA Budget Allocation. The box will turn red if you exceed your allocated budget.
- Unallocated funding may be accessed later using a budget modification form as per DDA guidance
- Yellow cells may be filled in. White cells will calculate.
- Enter hours, rates, number of months/weeks, items, etc. in the yellow cells.
- Use arrow keys to move between cells.

Support Broker

Support Broker	Total Hours	Rate per Hour	# of Months	Budget Total
Initial orientation and assistance up to 15 hours				\$0.00
Ongoing Monthly Service - Staff	# of Hours per month	Rate per Hour	# of Months	\$0.00

Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS

Staff Benefits				
Health Benefits				
PTO Benefits				
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)				
Other Benefits - list				
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)				
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff		
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)				\$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per hour	Hours per Staff	
Staff Wages for Training				\$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks	
Mileage				\$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip		
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)				\$0.00
Taxi/Uber				\$0.00
Taxes				
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>				\$0.00
Support Broker - Vendor/Contractor	# of Hours per Month	Rate per Hour	# of Months	
Support Broker - Vendor				\$0.00

Services to Support My Daily Living

Personal Supports (PS)	Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total
Personal Supports - Staff				Anything over 82 hrs/wk must be preauthorized by the DDA Tax is not calculated on contractor/vendor services.	\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Overnight Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Overnight Staff					\$0.00
Personal Supports - Overnight Staff					\$0.00
Staff Benefits					
Health Benefits					Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS
PTO Benefits					
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)					
Other Benefits - list					
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)					
Training Costs	# of Staff	Cost per staff			
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)				\$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff		
Staff Wages for Training				\$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training				\$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training				\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks		
Mileage				\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip			
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)				\$0.00	
Taxi/Uber				\$0.00	
Taxes					
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>				\$0.00	
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor	Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor				\$0.00	
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor				\$0.00	
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor				\$0.00	
Supported Living	# of Days per Year	Rate Per Day			Budget Total
Supported Living Vendor/Contractor				\$0.00	
Supported Living Vendor/Contractor				\$0.00	
Respite Care Services	# of Days per Year	Rate Per Day			Budget Total
Respite - DDA Licensed Provider				\$0.00	
Respite - DDA Licensed Provider				\$0.00	

Respite - DDA Licensed Provider						\$0.00
Respite Care - Staff	# Hours	Rate per Hour				
Respite - Staff						\$0.00
Respite - Staff						\$0.00
Respite - Staff						\$0.00
Staff Benefits					<i>Respite care services hourly and daily total hours may not exceed 720 hours within each Person-Centered Plan plan year unless otherwise authorized by the DDA.</i> <i>Note: DDA Licensed Respite Provider services are based on a daily rate and equal 24 hours.</i>	Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)						
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff				
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)						
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training						
Staff Wages for Training						
Staff Wages for Training						
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage						
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip				
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)						
Taxi/Uber						
Taxes						
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>						
Respite - Camp	Limit to \$7248 per plan year					
Respite - Vendor/Contractor	# Hours	Rate per Hour			<i>Respite care services hourly and daily total hours may not exceed 720 hours within each Person-Centered Plan plan year unless otherwise authorized by the DDA.</i>	
Respite - Vendor/Contractor						
Respite - Vendor/Contractor						
Respite - Vendor/Contractor						
Nursing Support Services	# of Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Nurse - Staff					\$0.00	
Staff Benefits						
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)						
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff				
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					\$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage					\$0.00	

Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip			
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					\$0.00
Taxi/Uber					\$0.00
Taxes					
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>					\$0.00
Nurse - Vendor/Contractor	# of Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		
Nurse - Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00
Housing Support Services					Budget Total
Housing Support Services	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	Max 8 hr/day; 175 hrs/yr		\$0.00
Live-In Caregiver Support					Budget Total
Live-In Caregiver Support	# of Months	Monthly amount	The total monthly additional cost of rent and food as determined by the Department of HUD and the USDA monthly food plan at the 2 person moderate plan level. In addition the total monthly cost for rent and food must adhere to the DDA's reasonable and customary standards.		\$0.00
Individual and Family Directed Goods & Services (IFDGS)					Budget Total
Allowable Goods and Services					
Item:				All requests for IFDGS must also be made using the IFDGS Request Form.	
Item:					
Day to Day Administrator	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	# of Weeks		
Day to Day Administrator - Staff					\$0.00
Staff Benefits				Requests for Day to Day Administrator do not need to be requested using the IFDGS request form. However, the PCP should note why an administrator is needed.	Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS
Health Benefits					
PTO Benefits					
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)					
Other Benefits - list					
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)					
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff			
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					\$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff		
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00
Taxes					
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>					\$0.00
Day to Day Administrator - Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		

Day to Day Administrator - Vendor/Contractor						\$0.00	
Staff Recruitment and Advertising	Maximum of \$500; this amount is included in the PCP Service Authorization						
Behavioral Support Services						Budget Total	
Milestones		# of Milestones	Rate				
Behavioral Assessment (Milestone)				Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.		\$0.00	
Behavioral Plan (Milestone)						\$0.00	
		# of Hours	Rate per Hour				
Behavioral Consultation (Hour)						\$0.00	
Brief Support Implementation Services (Hour)						\$0.00	
Meaningful Day Services							
Employment Services (Previously Supported Employment)		# of Milestones	Rate	Discovery is a time-limited comprehensive, person-centered, and community-based employment planning support service to assist the participant to identify the participant's abilities, conditions, and interests. Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.		Budget Total	
Discovery - Milestone #1						\$0.00	
Discovery - Milestone #2						\$0.00	
Discovery - Milestone #3						\$0.00	
Self- Employment Development Supports		# of Milestones	Rate	Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.		Budget Total	
Self-Employment Development Milestone				Business and Marketing Plan		\$0.00	
Job Development		# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks	Up to 90 hours per year. Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.	Budget Total	
						\$0.00	
Ongoing Job Supports						Budget Total	
		# of Hours	Hourly Rate	# of Weeks			
Ongoing Job Supports - Staff						\$0.00	
Staff Benefits						Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS	
Health Benefits							
PTO Benefits							
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)							
Other Benefits - list							
Sick and Safe(Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)							
Training	# of Staff	Fee per staff					
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)							\$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff				
Staff Wages for Training							\$0.00
Staff Wages for Training						\$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training						\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks				
Mileage						\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of trips	Cost per trip					
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)						\$0.00	

Taxi/Uber					\$0.00	
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>					\$0.00	
Ongoing Job Supports - Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks			
Ongoing Job Supports - Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00	
Ongoing Job Supports - Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00	
Follow Along Supports	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Follow Along Supports - Staff					\$0.00	
Staff Benefits						Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe(Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)						
Training	# of Staff	Fee per staff				
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					\$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage					\$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of trips	Cost per trip				
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					\$0.00	
Taxi/Uber					\$0.00	
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>					\$0.00	
Follow Along Supports - Vendor/Contractor		Rate per Month	# of Months			
Follow Along Supports - Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00	
Follow Along Supports - Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00	
	# Months	Rate per Month			Budget Total	
Co-Worker Supports			No more than 3 months. Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.		\$0.00	
Employment Services Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Employment Services Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00	
Employment Services Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00	
Community Development Services (CDS)	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
CDS - Staff					\$0.00	
CDS - Staff					\$0.00	
CDS - Staff					\$0.00	
CDS - Staff					\$0.00	
CDS - Staff					\$0.00	
Staff Benefits						Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS
Health Benefits						

PTO Benefits					
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)					
Other Benefits - list					
Sick and Safe(Applicable to Mont. Co. ONLY)					
Training		# of Staff	Fee per staff		
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					\$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training		# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff	
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00
Staff Wages for Training					\$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement		# of miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks	
Mileage					\$0.00
		# of trips	Cost per trip		
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					\$0.00
Taxi/Uber					\$0.00
Taxes - (indicate percentage)>					\$0.00
Community Development Vendor/Contractor		# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks	
Community Development Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00
Community Development Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00
Day Habilitation		# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks	Budget Total
Day Habilitation Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00
Day Habilitation Vendor/Contractor					\$0.00
Family & Participant Support/Training		# of Hours	Hourly Rate		Budget Total
Family and Peer Mentoring Supports				<i>Up to 8 hours per day</i>	\$0.00
Family Caregiver Training & Empowerment				<i>Up to \$500 per participant per year</i>	\$0.00
Participant Education, Training and Advocacy - hours				<i>Up to 10 hours per year</i>	\$0.00
Participant Education, Training and Advocacy - fees		<i>Up to \$500 per participant per year</i>			

Health and Adaptations					
Assistive Technology & Services					Budget Total
Item:					
Item:					
Maintenance:					
Remote Support Services					Budget Total
Item:					
Item:					
Maintenance					
Environmental Assessment					Budget Total
Assessment:					
Environmental Modification					Budget Total

Item:		<i>Limit is \$50,000 every three years unless otherwise authorized by the DDA</i>	
Item:			
Item:			
Vehicle Modification		<i>Limit is \$15,000 within a 10-year period</i>	Budget Total
Item:			
Maintenance:			

Household Start-Up		
Transition Service	<i>An itemized list must be attached and the total cannot exceed \$5000 over a lifetime</i>	Budget Total
Moving Expense		
Set-Up fees; non-refundable deposits (<i>utility/service access</i>)		
Furniture/kitchen/accessories		

Transportation						
Transportation - Independent		Cost/Day	# of Day			Budget Total
Orientation Services for visual impairments						\$0.00
Travel Training						\$0.00
		Rate per Trip	# of Trips per Week	# of Weeks	<i>For stand-alone Transportation only with in community</i>	
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)						\$0.00
Taxi/Uber/Lyft						\$0.00
		Rate per Mile	# of Miles per Week	# of Weeks		
Other-mileage						\$0.00

Other Services - With DDA Approval		
		Budget Total
Item:		
Item:		
Item:		

TOTAL \$0.00

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**

Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

I am the sister/legal guardian of Yvette M. Gierczak. She receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on Yvette's independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of Yvette's approved plan and budget based on Yvette's assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for Yvette's needs should be available to Yvette's staff.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, Yvette has been able to access the funds from her DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in Yvette's person-centered plan.

Don't leave me behind!

Yvette M. Gierczak and Shannon L. Marriott (Guardian)



I am Caroline. I live in Rockville (District #17) and I Self-Direct My DDA Services

I live in my own apartment with a Housing Choice Voucher.
Self-Direction means:

- ♥ I choose who supports me to live independently, during the day, and overnight.
- ♥ It's MY place—I run the show.
- ♥ A Day to Day Administrator, paid through IFDGS, can help me with my appointments, paperwork, money management, budgeting, and household management.
- ♥ Here I am signing my lease!



When I was in middle school, I learned that I like to operate a sewing machine. My team and I developed a small business and I sew bags and other items that I sell at community fairs and festivals.



Self-Direction Means:

- ♥ I have the support I need to design and make my products
- ♥ A Day to Day Administrator, paid through IFDGS, helps me with contracts and other business items like paying sales tax

I love being part of the world and my community. Self-Direction means I choose where I go and what I do every day. IFDGS means I can go to art and music classes. I also like hanging out in parks and stuff.



I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Robert, now 38,

- has support of the DDA Community Pathways Waiver, Self-Directed Services.
- Lives in an apartment in Rockville Town Center, which is in District 17. Location provides great public transportation options.
- Works part-time at Goodwill in Rockville, where he has been working since August 2020.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



Reda Sheinberg
Robert's Mother
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Reda.Sheinberg@gmail.com

My DDA Self-**Direction** funding helps me to ...

- Select support staff and vendors, who help me to live successfully in my community.
- Work out weekly with Spirit Club for my mental and physical health.
- Participate in weekly and daily programs with other self-advocates with support from Integrated Living Opportunities (ilonow.org).
- Work with staff to maintain my apartment, do cooking, and do tasks in my community.
- Work with a Day-to-Day Administrator to manage my current and long term services.
- Work with Housing Support Specialist, who helped in moving to a new place this year.

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Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss! I self-direct!



About Me

I was born very early at 24 weeks. I have Cerebral Palsy, Hydrocephalus, Communication Disorders, and Cognitive disorders. I entered Self Direction directly from High School in 2012. I am now 33 years old. Self-Direction has been a life saver for me and my family! The Self-Direction Act of 2022 advanced my ability to design my services to address my specific needs. I can hire my support personnel and train them to understand me. I live in my own home next to my parents. I use a housing voucher. I love having my own home, but I need 24/7 supports to keep me safe.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

- train my employees so they have a greater understanding of how to support me.
- allows me to retain our employees with a competitive salary and benefit package.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS)

-allows me to see the dentist with reimbursement from **IDFGS** because the Healthy Smiles program is no longer available to me. All the dentists in my area have stopped accepting this program because Medicaid reimbursement is poor.

-allows me to hire a **Day-to-Day Administrator** to support my family to manage my home. This is the beginning of working toward **sustainability of my program once my parents are no longer able to help me.**

-allows me to attend classes which help to develop my skills and improve my function in the community. **Music and Horse Riding help me manage behavior issues I struggle with.**

Jennifer Bowers

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21742

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Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss!

I self-direct!



My name is Alex, and I suffer from a very rare disease called Riboflavin Transporter Deficiency Syndrome, Type 2 (RTD2). Since birth, RTD2 has slowly robbed me of my ability to walk, see, hear and to use my arms and hands. But that has not stopped me from setting goals and reaching my potential. With daily support from my family and support staff, I have been able to achieve two college degrees (graduating summa cum laude for both), win art competitions, direct plays, write for my college newspaper and play music in my own band. I am currently a junior at UMBC where I am majoring in Social Work. I am passionate about advocacy for diversity and inclusion and I want to make a big difference in the world by working with vulnerable populations and individuals with disabilities to improve their lives and the quality of services they receive.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

- Attend college so I can reach my potential and make a difference in the lives of other people with disabilities.
- Provide me with people who can help facilitate communication and conversations so that I can make friends and belong to a community of peers.
- Pursue my passion for art, music and theatre.
- Assist me in the community so that I can be more independent and less isolated.
- Improve my quality of life by assisting me with tasks I cannot do myself physically while allowing me to live a life of dignity.
- Allow me to hire family members who I trust to provide me with the best quality of care and who I know love me and will always be looking out for my best interests.

Alexander Fitzgerald

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Woodbine, MD 21797

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I'm the boss! I self-direct!



I love self-directing my DDA Waiver Services because everyday can be unique and suited to my needs.

When I have good support from people who know me well, the world is a wonderful place!

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



Al Wopat
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My DDA Self-**Direction funding helps me to ...**

Find new places and things to do in my community when the timing is right for me.

Stay healthy by hiking and going to the gym.

Talk to different people and work on my communication skills.

Get better at doing things myself.

Hire great staff to help me do all those things!

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I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Elaine, now 39

*Has support of DDA Community Pathways Waiver, Self-Directed Services.

*Lives in her own place in Germantown, close to the town center and transit station.

*Works part-time at Rental Assistance in Rockville & Red Wiggler Farm in Germantown.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

Live in my own place in the community. I moved out of my family home in 2014!

Have support when needed on my jobs.

My staff make it possible for me to be an active participant in my community. For example, I am a member of interPLAY orchestra at Strathmore, swim and bowl with Special Olympics, participate in classes and activities with Potomac Community Resources (PCR), take classes at VisArts, attend Friends Unlimited in Clarksburg, and I am active in my church.

Hire a Day-to-Day Administrator to help me and prepare for the day when my mom isn't able to do all she does now.

Debbie Fickenscher

(Elaine's Mom)

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Self-Directed Advisory Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Self-Direction is important to me because...

Before Self-Directed Services, I lived in group homes for a few years, where:

- I felt unsafe and had negative interactions with some of my roommates who had dangerous behavior
- I never knew who was going to be taking care of me each day, or what I would be doing each day
- I was not able to plan my own events or activities
- I was not properly able to take care of my diet and exercise for diabetes
- My roommate and staff were often mean to me
- I had to go to lots of places that I did not need/want to go to because that is where my roommates were going

Self-Direction has greatly improved my life and made me more happy!

*Choice and control of my
DDA services matter to me!
Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!*



Daniel "Danny Manny" Zwi
Age 25

Leslie Zwi (Mom)
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My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to...

- Hire my own staff, which now can include family, making me feel safe and secure
- Use my unallocated budget funds for Individual Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS) on things that enhance my life. This year, it covered:
 - Vital diabetes monitoring (not covered by insurance for type 2 diabetes) giving me feedback I needed
 - Gym visits and classes which keep my diabetes under control and help me socialize; without IDFGS my diabetes management would have continued to decline.
 - Montgomery College Challenge Program which has renewed my interest in academics and has me feel worthy with the opportunity to be more knowledgeable (this term about the Watershed and improved writing skills)
- Live in my own home with my parents, where I'm happy to have the support of caring Personal Support Staff
- Fund a support broker to manage my budget
- Cover POV mileage for my support staff so they can take me places I want to go
- Participate in community events, including volunteering and coming to Annapolis to watch the Senate, House, and Governor Moore in action
- Pay for behavioral support services

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Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Self-Direction is important to me because...

- I lived in a group home for many years where I cried often and felt unsafe.
- I never knew who was going to be taking care of me each day.
- I was not able to see my girlfriend when I wanted.
- I was not able to plan my own events or activities.
- Often, I did not have lights in my bedroom, toilet tissue in my bathroom, or milk for my morning cereal!
- My roommate and staff were often mean to me.

...I was neglected, abused, and no one cared.

Self-Direction has greatly improved my life and made me happy!

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

- Decide how to spend my DDA Budget.
- Hire my own staff, which now can include family, making me feel safe and secure.
- Use my unallocated budget funds for Individual Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS) on things that enhance my life. This year, it covered vital extensive dental services (not covered by insurance); without IDFGS my oral health would have continued to decline.
- Live in my own home where I'm happy to have the support of caring Personal Support Staff.
- Participate in community events, and social clubs.
- Fund a support broker to manage my budget.
- Pay for behavioral support services.
- Attend Camp Fairlee Manor in the summer so that I may enjoy a vacation with my peers.
- cover POV mileage for my support staff so they can take me places I want to go.
- Pay for CDS day program, so that I can learn life skills and enjoy comradery.

Ryan Gerhold
Age 38

Debbie Hamann (Mom)
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I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Self-Direction is important to me because...

- It allows me to be more independent because I can hire my own staff that I'm comfortable being with.
- Before I self-directed I attended a local day program, but often, my services were canceled due to lack of staff. With self-direction my mother can be my back-up staff when my staff is unavailable.
- Self-direction allows me the opportunity to select where I would like to volunteer, such as Ann Marie Gardens and Sotterley Farm, which are located near my home.
- Self-direction also allows me to have my support staff come to my home where I am comfortable, and where we work on activities such as puzzles, crafts, and games. They help me work on my activities of daily living.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

- Decide how to spend my DDA Budget.
- Hire my family as staff.
- Use my unallocated budget funds for Individual Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS) on things that enhance my life such as gym fees, non-Covered dental expenses.
- Participate in community events, and social clubs.
- Fund a support broker to manage my budget.
- Attend Camp Fairlee Manor in the summer so that I may enjoy a vacation with my friends.
- Cover mileage for my support staff so they can take me places I want to go.

Wanda Morgan
Age 42

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I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Remove all references to ARTICLE – HEALTH – GENERAL Section 7-101 & 7-409 from SB0362 and HB 0352.

We are in opposition to any provision that alters the mandates of The Self-Direction of 2022.

**Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!
Preserving Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) Matters to Me!**



My DDA Self-**Direction** funding helps me to ...

I have been self directing since August 2022. My mom died in 2017 and I moved to a group home for 3 years. I moved to my sister's home in 2022 to be happier because my family was not happy at the group home due to changes there. Now, I have staff and family that care very well for me and know that I am happy and safe. I can be close to my nieces, nephew, sister, brother in law and my cats. I am able to be in the community daily and work on life skills. My dad just died on January 19, 2024, so it is even more important that my self direction IFDGS continues. My sister has had to make many adjustments to continue to care for me each day and it is important that my situation stays unaltered because we have had too much change and sadness recently.

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SDAN
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