

Housing and Self Direction - IDGS - YouTube

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In this presentation, we'll give an overview of self direction services using the individual directed goods and services, commonly called Iggs. Portion of a self direction budget. IDGS can be used to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to pursue inclusive, independent or non certified housing. Self direction services are the most used service options for success in independent living. We'll share about the resources that can provide some guidance on how self direction services can support the goal of independence I found like a place to call home. Next slide please. We'll focus on IDGS services available in a self direction budget. We'll define IDGS services, provide an overview of options available in IDGS, and then point you to some additional resources. Next slide please.

{ 0:51 }

Medicaid funds IDGS as an other support waiver service only provided to people who have an approved OPWDD self direction budget. The funding cap for the service is \$32,000. This other support service may allow many people to remain in their local communities and receive services in the most inclusive, integrated way. After the circle of support completes person centered planning, we can consider how IDGS can support the plan. Next slide please. You can build multiple categories of service into the self direction budget to use for non certified, supportive and inclusive inclusive housing choices. Each category has requirements and possible funding caps. The IDGS definitions chart is a very very helpful tool for quick and easy review when planning this support service. Next slide please. For the purposes of non certified housing, a key category of Idgs is Housing Related Items and Services.

{ 1:52 }

According to the definitions chart provided by OPWDD, this category covers either household support services or appliance, which are items that assist a person to live more independently. It is important to know several requirements of this category. It has an annual cap of \$1500 per person. It cannot be funded by any other program and cannot be on the list of excluded items provided by OPWDD. It must be for the sole purpose of the self-directed and self directing person who is not living in the family home and the life plan narrative must outline the services and have valued outcomes to justify expenses. Examples of services in this category include lawn care, snow removal, 24 hour maintenance contracts, cleaning services, possible parts of HOA, fees if a breakdown is provided, appliances, etcetera.

{ 2:51 }

Examples of appliances include microwaves, special HEPA filters, cordless vacuums, stand maker stand mixers, etcetera. Before you buy an item or sign a service agreement, talk with your fiscal intermediary for pre approval. You'll want to check that the budget covers the item or service. Next slide please. The Paid Neighbor is an IDGS support category that allows payment for an on call or live near

support person. This means you can have someone on staff to call as needed. The Paid Neighbor must live within 30 minutes of the person and they must be close enough to respond to the specific needs of the person. Using Paid Neighbor can give you flexibility to have in the moment guidance by phone. You should work with your fiscal intermediary agency to identify, clear and train a paid neighbor. You will need to outline the agreement for the paid neighbor with your agency. The paid neighbor will also provide community habilitation or Comhub support if they need to support you in your home.

{ 3:59 }

The paid neighbor acts as an on call support and as a Comhub staff considering this dual role, be sure to outline clear expectations regarding the scope of the work. The agreement should include the types of support and the days and times the person can expect to rely on the paid neighbor support. Paid neighbors receive a monthly stipend for being on call, whether or not they are called. If the paid neighbor provides compheb supports, they get paid an hourly rate agreed upon at higher separate from the stipend. A paid neighbor cannot be a family member related by blood or marriage. The service has some flexibility in the types of support provided by paid neighbors, and it can be an important service for people looking to live independently. You can also choose multiple paid neighbors to have backup to the backup plan. You will have a separate agreement for each paid neighbor. The stipend cannot total more than \$800 per month.

{ 5:00 }

Check with your fiscal intermediary about the requirements and documentation needs as some are now requiring a certification each month before paying the stipend. Next slide please. Staffing Support is an IDGS category where you can use as a transition from parent or natural supports to paid supports. This category provides support with staff hiring, scheduling and backup staff planning. The service can offer staff evaluation requirements and reimbursement processes to meet your fiscal intermediaries policies. You have some flexibility in how you use the service and is important. It is important sustainable option for long term planning. Work with your circle of support to outline the expectations for staffing supports. These services should be unique from the fiscal intermediary and broker services of the self-directed plan.

{ 5:52 }

A staffing support person cannot work as a staff person at a not-for-profit agency and cannot assist with decision making for the self direction budget. The staffing support person cannot be a family member or part of the planning team. Your fiscal intermediary will do a background check and screen the person before they are hired. The hourly rate cannot be more than \$20 and the work week cannot go over 40 hours. Next slide please. You can also include a clinical consultant non direct staff trainer as part of your circle of support. This consultant can evaluate challenges and help address needs during a transition. They can attend Life Plan meetings and assist with recommendation in the Staff Action Plan for independent living solutions, the environment, the movement or behavior, challenges, and strategies for the staff's

success. They can offer support either in person or remotely to the staff to walk through the best supports in real time. These supports must be in the Life Plan narrative.

{ 6:54 }

The consultant provides a written outline for approval to the person, circle of support, and fiscal intermediary. The consultant will update the outline annually or is needed and report on the progress of the plan. The consultant can recommend additional staff supports for the person's success. The consultant must be a registered member of the professions listed under the New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions, with licensure and verification through the website located on the IDGS Definitions chart. They may also operate in one of the disciplines authorized under Article 16 clinical regulations such as psychology, OT, PT, speech, language, pathology, social work, nursing, nutrition, or Dietetic rehabilitation counseling. Your fiscal intermediary has information about the hourly rates allowed for these professions. This information is in the IDGS definitions chart. Next slide please.

{ 7:56 }

There are other IDGS service categories you can use to help you live independently. You can request IGGS Transportation for service related or safeguard related transportation as long as it aligns with the valued outcome in the person's life plan. We describe this category as reimbursement for mileage or public transportation to classes and memberships in the budget or when the staff provides the transportation that corresponds to the valued outcomes or safeguards in the life plan. The Community Classes category can fund skill building classes for independent living such as organizational skills, cooking, activities of daily living and discovery opportunities. Work with your fiscal intermediary to approve classes before you register to ensure they meet the current criteria. Classes must be available to the general public, non credit bearing, non matriculating and outlined or justified in the life plan.

{ 8:55 }

Memberships can fund either health or community membership and these support healthy living and or community integration. There is a funding cap of \$1500 for the year and be sure to work with your fiscal intermediary to approve memberships before you register. Finally, the transition service category has gained popularity in recent years. The program offerings need to relate to skill building and employment outcomes. The service is limited to two years and the program must be held in locations in the community or college campuses and not at site based certified OPWDD locations. If the tuition is calculated monthly, it cannot exceed \$800 per month or \$9600 for the year. If it is billed per class, the tuition limit is \$350.00 per course. Next slide please.

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If you would like to explore IDGS service categories more deeply, please refer to the Self Direction Guidance Group providers, the IDGSADM #2000 15-O5R, or the

IDGS Definitions chart, which are all provided by OOPWDD on their website. Next slide, please. Please visit the New York Housing Resource Center at nyhrc.org to find out more information on this topic. There you can search our catalog of free housing related resources and download the Housing Resource Guide, which is a thorough review of housing related topics for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you would like to stay connected, please sign up for the Housing Connect, our electronic newsletter. We wish you the best on your housing journey.

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