



# **Self-directed Support Corporations**

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# *What Is a Self-directed Support Corp. (SDSC)?*



**Self-directed Support Corporations are  
the United States version of the  
microboard model that originated in  
British Columbia through the  
organization VELA.**

## *What Is a Self-Directed Support Corporation?*

**Much like a microboard.**

- **It is a small board that forms around a person with a disability to provide their supports.**
- **There are an odd number of board members: 3,5,7 or 9 members.**
- **The person with the disability is the center of the board.**
- **Self-directed Support Corporations are legally developed not-for-profit corporations developed to provide a legal entity to manage the support system for a person with a disability.**

# *Using Principles and Tools of Self Determination*



The SDSC uses the principles and tools of Self Determination:

Principles: Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility and the Confirmation of Self-advocacy

Tools: Individual Budgets, Fiscal Intermediaries and Support Brokerage

(Center for Self Determination: [www.self-determination.com](http://www.self-determination.com))

# *How Does It Work?*



The SDSC becomes a legal provider to support the person with the disability. Like other providers the SDSC follows the same regulations and has the same accountability dictated by the State and Federal Governments.

The difference in this approach is that the person with the disability and those that care about them are in the “directors seat”.

This provider only serves one individual which means that the person with the disability truly does control and receive the supports that are custom designed to truly match their need.

# *How Do You Form a SDSC?*



Step 1: You Identify the SDSC Board Members

Step 2: Once the SDSC Members Are Established, You Then Proceed to Incorporate, Which Requires You to Develop Articles of Corporation and By-laws (How the Board Will Operate). The SDSC becomes a not-for-profit (NOTE: this does not mean the SDSC is a 501 c3 which is a tax exempt status, but you are using Medicaid dollars and these are tax exempt)

Step 3: You Apply for a Medicaid License Through Your State to Become a Small Medicaid Provider for One Person



*The SDSC Is Responsible for Arranging Supports  
for the Person Needing Supports.*

*With the control given to the person with the  
disability and those that care about them supports  
are “custom designed”.*



**Since the SDSC is a provider for one person you have:**

**An Individual Budget** as the SDSC only provides for one person.

**Support Brokerage** which can be done through flexible means.

**Fiscal Intermediary** which can be a local bank or a payroll service or a local CPA.

# *What Does This Mean to People With Disabilities?*



- True control and freedom to the person with the disability.
- Friends and family who know the individual are the best are encouraged to become a member of the board.
- The SDSC does the directing of the supports and supports are truly designed using the principles and tools of self determination.
- The SDSC board of directors does this on a volunteer basis, so there is no conflict of interest for them.

# *What Does This Mean for the Government ?*



- This is a “person centered approach” to supporting an individual with a disability.
- It cuts the administrative cost at the same time it presents an opportunity for the person with the disability to control their budget, design their supports and presents true accountability to the state and federal governments.
- The SDSC follows all the regulations as any other provider of services. This includes becoming a Medicaid provider approved by the state and conducting audits and reviews by the state agencies.

# *Is This Approach for Everyone?*



Not everyone with a disability or special health care needs will want to set up a SDSC.

The SDSC approach is an option that provide an opportunity for public dollars to serve the person with the disability, as closely as possible and at the same time provide accountability to the state and federal governments.