
Spouses and Parents as Paid Caregivers: Minnesota Experience

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Consumer Directed Community Supports

- Medical Assistance HCBS waiver and state-funded Alternative Care Program service
 - Statewide availability since 2005 – serving about 2000 persons monthly
 - Allows spouse and parents of minors to be paid as support workers
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Provision for Spouse/Parent of Minor

- Parents of minor children with development disabilities continually advocated for option during 2-year CDCS development phase
 - Parents told personal stories to CMS
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Core Reasons for Parents Wanting the Provision

- Success demonstrated under the DD waiver for same population for consumer directed services since 1997
 - Multiple workers needed throughout the day and night to provide scope and amount of services to disabled children
 - Difficulty in hiring adequate, qualified help to provide the services
 - Many parents had left jobs because of the demands for caring for disabled child and were available to be hired
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Hiring Spouse or Parent of Minor Child Guidelines

- Payment is only allowed under the personal assistance service category
 - Services must be specified in Community Support Plan and approved by case manager
 - Job duties cannot be things parent/spouse would ordinarily perform (e.g., house cleaning, meal prep, laundry)
 - Work schedule, tasks, payment rate detailed in the plan
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Guidelines Continued

- Cannot be paid for more than 40 hours/week
 - Can't be paid also as participant's support planner
 - Parent/spouse must be qualified and trained to provide the service
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