

§ 441.452

Supports broker or consultant means an individual who supports participants in directing their PAS and service budgets. The supports broker or consultant is an agent of the participants and takes direction from the participants, or their representatives, if applicable, about what information, counseling, training or assistance is needed or desired. The supports broker or consultant is primarily responsible for facilitating participants' development of a service budget and effective management of the participants' PAS and budgets in a manner that comports with the participants' preferences. States must develop a protocol to ensure that supports brokers or consultants: are accessible to participants; have regularly scheduled phone and in-person contacts with participants; monitor whether participants' health status has changed and whether expenditure of funds are being made in accordance with service budgets. States must also develop the training requirements and qualifications for supports brokers or consultants that include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) An understanding of the philosophy of self-direction and person-centered and directed planning;
- (2) The ability to facilitate participants' independence and participants' preferences in managing PAS and budgets, including any risks assumed by participants;
- (3) The ability to develop service budgets and ensure appropriate documentation; and
- (4) Knowledge of the PAS and resources available in the participant's community and how to access them.

The availability of a supports broker or consultant to each participant is a requirement of the support system.

§ 441.452 Self-direction: General.

(a) States must have in place, before electing the self-directed PAS option, personal care services through the State plan, or home and community-based services under a section 1915(c) waiver.

(b) The State must have both traditional service delivery and the self-directed PAS service delivery option available in the event that an individual voluntarily disenrolls or is in-

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voluntarily disenrolled, from the self-directed PAS service delivery option.

(c) The State's assessment of an individual's needs must form the basis of the level of services for which the individual is eligible.

(d) Nothing in this subpart will be construed as affecting an individual's Medicaid eligibility, including that of an individual whose Medicaid eligibility is attained through receipt of section 1915(c) waiver services.

§ 441.454 Use of cash.

(a) States have the option of disbursing cash prospectively to participants, or their representatives, as applicable, self-directing their PAS.

(b) States that choose to offer the cash option must ensure compliance with all applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, including, but not limited to, retaining required forms and payment of FICA, FUTA and State unemployment taxes.

(c) States must permit participants, or their representatives, as applicable, using the cash option to choose to use the financial management entity for some or all of the functions described in § 441.484(c).

(d) States must make available a financial management entity to a participant, or the participant's representative, if applicable, who has demonstrated, after additional counseling, information, training, or assistance, that the participant cannot effectively manage the cash option described in paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 441.456 Voluntary disenrollment.

(a) States must permit a participant to voluntarily disenroll from the self-directed PAS option at any time and return to a traditional service delivery system.

(b) The State must specify in a section 1915(j) State plan amendment the safeguards that are in place to ensure continuity of services during the transition from self-directed PAS.

§ 441.458 Involuntary disenrollment.

(a) States must specify the conditions under which a participant may be involuntarily disenrolled from the self-directed PAS option.