



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

Consumer Directed Service Option

What is the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option?

The CDS option allows you the freedom to hire and manage your own employees, set the wages for your employees and give benefits, such as vacation days and bonuses.

How does CDS work?

You select a Consumer Directed Service Agency (CDSA) to do your payroll and federal and state taxes. The CDSA will help you set up an initial budget. In some programs, the CDSA will provide guidance on recruitment, salaries, benefits, and administrative costs.

How do I find a Consumer Directed Service Agency (CDSA)?

Some CDSAs serve the entire state. Others serve certain parts of the state. You can select a CDSA that serves your area. There are currently 2 Consumer Directed Service Agencies in the north Texas area. The only face-to-face meeting you need is the first orientation meeting. All other business can be conducted over the phone or via fax. For a complete list of CDSAs, see DADS website below.

Why would I want to choose CDS?

When you hire your own employees you can often find family, neighbors, or friends to work for you. Within your allotted service budget, you can set your employees' wages and benefits, and you can hire back-up employees for those times when your regular employees are not available to work.

**** Not all programs and services are eligible for CDS. For more information and to see a complete list of current programs and services available, go to:**

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/CDS/cds-faqs.pdf>