

# Participant-Directed Goods and Services

A service available through the Level One and SELF Waivers

Participant-Directed Goods and Services, often called PDGS, is a service available through the Level One and SELF waivers that promotes independence and inclusion. Through budget authority, PDGS can help you with services, equipment, or supplies you need when other programs or resources are not available.

## Start with Service Planning

The first step to planning for services is to get a good idea of what you need help with right now. Your county board of developmental disabilities uses a few different assessment tools to get to know you. These assessments help your service and support administrator, or SSA, identify what services, equipment, or supplies you may need. Your SSA can help you pull together different resources to meet the needs from your assessment.



Mason  
Hamilton County

### PDGS Requirements

Because every person has different needs and different resources available, there is no list of exactly what PDGS will cover.

Instead, the service, equipment, or supplies must

- address a need clearly identified through an assessment,
- be something that helps you directly and is not something purchased for people that support you,
- and be something you need to stay healthy and safe and cannot buy for yourself.

It must do at least **one** of these

- decrease your need for a different waiver service,
- advance your participation in the community,
- help you to be safer in your home,
- offer you more independence,
- improve your cognitive, social, or behavioral functions
- or help you develop personal, social, or physical skills.

For more information, read OAC 5123-9-45.



### Talk with your SSA about what you need

Discuss what you would like to achieve and the needs you have right now. Talk about how your needs are currently being met, what needs are not being met, and what is or is not working for you.



### Think about different ways your needs can be met

Your SSA can talk with you about supports available through local programs, your Ohio Medicaid State Plan benefits, by using technology, through the Level One or SELF waivers, or from other resources to help meet your current need.



### Find out what works for you

Discuss services, equipment, or supplies that can help meet needs from your assessment. Your service plan should include specific information about the services and supports that work for you.



### Add PDGS in Your Service Plan

Your SSA can add PDGS as a funding source to meet a current need from your assessment when other resources do not support what you want to achieve.

*Under the Level One waiver, PDGS cannot exceed \$2,500 per waiver eligibility span.*

The SELF waiver has no service-specific spending limitation for PDGS. Spending for PDGS must be within the overall annual SELF waiver limitations (\$30K for children and \$45K for adults) when combined with the spending for all other waiver services.

## IDENTIFY THE NEED

Have a conversation about what you would like to achieve and the needs you have. Your county board of developmental disabilities uses a few different assessment tools to get to know you. These assessments help your service and support administrator (SSA), identify what services, equipment, or supplies you may need.

## IDENTIFY EXISTING SUPPORTS

Talk about how your needs are currently being met and whether your existing supports could help support what you would like to achieve and meet your assessed need.

## EXPLORE NON-WAIVER RESOURCES

Talk about other available resources that could meet your assessed need and help support what you would like to achieve. These resources may include Medicaid State Plan benefits, educational benefits available under IDEA, other local programs, and willing natural supports.

## EXPLORE OTHER WAIVER SERVICES

Talk about other services available through your waiver that could meet your assessed need and help support what you would like to achieve. These could be things like assistive technology, community respite, home delivered meals, and many others.

## EXPLORE PDGS

When other resources do not support what you would like to achieve, talk about what goods and services could be purchased using PDGS Budget Authority to meet your assessed need.

## ENSURE PDGS REQUIREMENTS ARE MET

Your SSA will help to ensure the purchase meets all PDGS requirements per OAC 5123-9-45. This includes the requirement that PDGS is limited to \$2,500 per waiver year for the Level One waiver. The SELF waiver has no service-specific spending limitation for PDGS. Spending for PDGS must be within the overall annual SELF waiver limitations (\$30K for children and \$45K for adults) when combined with the spending for all other waiver services. If needed, your SSA will submit your request for local or DODD review.

## ADD PDGS INTO ISP

Your SSA will add your PDGS purchase to your Individual Service Plan (ISP) and authorize payment through a financial management service (FMS). The PDGS purchase will be directly linked to an assessed need in your ISP and do at least one of the following things:

- ✓ decrease the need for other waiver services;
- ✓ advance community participation;
- ✓ increase safety at home;
- ✓ increase independence;
- ✓ improve cognitive, social, or behavioral functions;
- ✓ develop or maintain personal, social, or physical skills

# PARTICIPANT DIRECTED GOODS AND SERVICES (PDGS)

UNDER THE SELF and  
LEVEL ONE WAIVER