



Choosing an Independent Facilitator

Possible questions to ask when selecting an Independent Facilitator

- How much do you know about California's Self-Determination Program?
You want to make sure they understand the principles of Self-Determination and how the program is different from the traditional regional center system. For example, the Self-Determination Program participant is in charge of who gets hired and supervising staff and agencies. Bills go to an Financial Management Service. Services must provide community inclusion. Provider does not need to be a vendor or have a contract with the regional center.
- What experience have you had as an Independent Facilitator?
- Have you had any training to be an Independent Facilitator?
- Have you ever facilitated a Person-Centered Plan?
- How many?
- What is your style?
- How do you prepare?
- How well do you know my community?
- Are you aware of activities in my area that I might be interested in?



Who can be an Independent Facilitator?

- The Independent Facilitator can't provide you any other services, they need to be independent.
- The Independent Facilitator can help you with many things, like:
 - Advocating for you through the person-centered planning process.
 - Coordinating services and supports consistent with your plan.
 - Helping you make informed choices about the money in your Individual Budget.
 - Helping you identify your needs and developing options to meet those needs.
- For those served by the regional center under age 18, a parent can be an Independent Facilitator but cannot be paid to do this.
- If over 18, a parent may be a paid Independent Facilitator unless they are providing another service to the person served such as an In Home Support Services (IHSS) provider.
- If the person served is married, their spouse cannot act as the Independent Facilitator.
- A conservator may act as an Independent Facilitator, however, they cannot be paid for this.
- You **can** choose to have your regional center service coordinator help you as an Independent Facilitator. However, there will be limitations as to what they will be available to do in this role. They can lead your Person Centered Planning meeting, help you develop your Spending Plan, Individual Budget, and your Individual Program Plan (IPP) along with providing you information on generic services and activities in your community. They will **not** be able to locate other services or negotiate what you will pay with providers. If you ask your service coordinator to be your Independent Facilitator, they **cannot** be paid to do this.



Possible Questions for Independent Facilitators

- How would you go about helping me to find services to help me meet my goals?
- How will you help me figure out my budget and Spending Plan?
- Can you advocate for me at my Individual Program Plan (IPP) and my Individual Education Plan (IEP)?
- Can you advocate for me to get benefits, such as Social Security Income (SSI) or In Home Support Services (IHSS)?
- Can you also help manage workers? How?
- How would you help me if I am unhappy with the job that one of my workers is doing?
- How will you keep in touch with other members of my support team?
- I have certain things that are really important to me, like _____. Are you willing to adapt your services to meet my specific needs and preferences?
- Are you willing to negotiate a price based on my specific needs?
- Given what you know about what I need, how much would you charge?
- When are you available to start?