

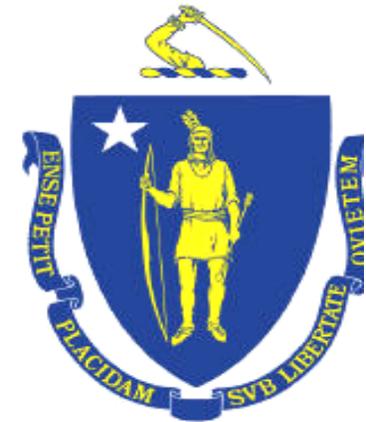
**What is a  
FISCAL INTERMEDIARY?  
(cont'd)**

An FI does not make decisions about the amount or type of services you receive. The FI helps you to manage the supports that have already been identified in your ISP.

The FI works with the service providers you choose. If you choose to hire your own support workers, the FI will manage the paperwork and the responsibilities that come with being an employer. The FI will pay other vendors for special services and goods you have in your budget. The FI will give you a monthly financial report to let you know if you are spending what you have budgeted on the items you planned and if you are spending too much and need to make adjustments to stay within your budget. There is one FI in Massachusetts called Public Partnerships Limited, PPL, which is available statewide.

Your Area Office can provide you with additional information about services offered. Also, see the DDS website at:  
[www.mass.gov/dds](http://www.mass.gov/dds).

# Choosing Which Service Method is Best for Me



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of  
Health and Human Services  
John W. Polanowicz, Secretary

Department of  
Developmental Services  
Elin M. Howe, Commissioner

## **Types of SERVICE DELIVERY METHODS**

The Department of Developmental Services gives you a choice about how your services are delivered to you. DDS offers three types of service delivery methods: Traditional Vendor Agency, Agency With Choice, and Fiscal Intermediary. The three models differ in the amount of control and responsibility you and your family wish to exercise.

## **What is a TRADITIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER AGENCY?**

A service provider agency is a traditional provider that is the employer of the individuals that will provide services for you. DDS will use the funds that are allocated to you in your Individual Resource Allocation to pay the vendor agency at the established rate for the service you need. The service provider is responsible for hiring, training, and managing the employees that support you. Service providers typically have set hours when they can provide services to you and are not required to give you a choice of which employee will work with you. There are many providers across the state who are qualified to deliver the services you need and you may choose any qualified provider subject to availability and other geographic considerations.

## **What is AN AGENCY WITH CHOICE?**

An Agency With Choice helps individual/families engage in self-determination. It is an agency that agrees to hire the individual you choose to provide services to you subject to the agency personnel policies. Agency With Choice is known as a co-employment model. This means that the duties are split between the Agency which serves as the employer and you who serves as the managing employer. The individual becomes an employee of the agency and the agency agrees to help you train, and manage the staff. The Agency With Choice negotiates a rate to be paid for the person you want to hire. When you choose an Agency With Choice you agree to work as a partner with the Agency on setting the employee's schedule and routines and in training and supervising the individual. You may discharge the employee from working with you, but ultimately, the Agency With Choice retains the final decisions about the employee since the Agency retains the responsibility of being the individual's employer. The Agency With Choice will give you a monthly financial report to let you know if you are spending what you have budgeted on the items you planned and if you are spending too much and need to make adjustments to stay within your budget.

## **What is AN AGENCY WITH CHOICE? (cont'd)**

There are many qualified Agency With Choice providers across the state who are qualified to deliver this service. You may choose any qualified Agency With Choice provider who covers the area where you reside.

## **What is a FISCAL INTERMEDIARY?**

A Fiscal Intermediary (FI) is an organization that assists you to implement your individual Resource Allocation and to manage financial accountability and employer responsibilities. A Fiscal Intermediary is not a service provider. A Fiscal Intermediary is an administrative and fiscal agent that assists you to use the money you get from DDS to pay for services and supports that you need.