

# ASK DEAR WANDA

Dear Wanda,

My son lives at home with me, and receives services through the Consolidated Waiver. At my last ISP meeting, I told my Supports Coordinator that we needed funding to fix the broken tracking system in our home. My Supports Coordinator said that my budget is \$30,000 per year and I couldn't add anything that increased our costs above that amount. Is this right? Do I have to give up other services so I can afford this repair?

Thanks for your help,  
Left Hanging

Dear Left Hanging,

*The Consolidated Waiver has no cap. The Supports Coordinator and the County/AE can not limit your budget. The Consolidated Waiver must meet all of your assessed needs to maintain your health and welfare in the community. The amount and scope of your services are outlined in your ISP and are based on needs – not an artificial cap or maximum set by the AE/County or Supports Coordinator. It seems to me that the repair to the tracking system should be included and approved in your plan, without you giving up any other authorized services. You should call your Supports Coordinator and request a “Critical Revision” to add it to your ISP plan. If you have any problems, call ODP at 1-888-565-9435 or the Regional Office.*

Hang in There,  
Wanda

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Dear Wanda,

I am so excited! I just found out my son will be getting the Person Family Directed Supports Waiver. This is really great news, since it means he will finally get the services he needs – we had been on the waiting list for years. The only problem is we were assigned a new Supports Coordinator by the County. I am nervous about the change, and was wondering why this happened? Do I have a choice in Supports Coordination?

Just curious,  
Choosy Lucy

Dear Choosy,

*Supports Coordination is a service in the Person Family Directed Supports Waiver and the Consolidated Waiver. Since it is a Waiver service, you have the right to choose any qualified, willing Medicaid provider. Each SC agency can decide whether to honor your request for a specific individual.*

*There are some counties that provide Supports Coordination, however, you can find a different provider...even if they are not currently doing business in your county. For example, if you live in Montgomery County and would like to find a new Supports Coordination Organization, you can shop around and ask if providers in neighboring counties, like Bucks or Berks, are willing to serve you. This choice of SC provider is new, and there are places where only one agency is available right now. But, over time, the Office of Development Programs expects more competition and choice as agencies expand and cross county lines to provide services.*

*Remember, Support Coordination is a support for you, and you should demand quality!*

Be Choosy,  
Wanda