



Self-Directed Services Support Broker Training Updates

Dear Community Partners,

We would like to inform you of several important updates concerning training for Support Broker Services.

Policy Updates

Based on stakeholder feedback, the Department is delaying the implementation date of the Self-Directed Services Policy, Manual, and associated forms from November 7, 2024, to November 21, 2024. We've also made updates to policies to help ensure more efficient service delivery and program integrity. These updates have been made as a direct result of feedback we have received since the October 24, 2024 release:

- **Legally responsible persons.** Language has been clarified to emphasize that relatives, legal guardians, and legally responsible persons can continue to provide certain services; and
- **ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts.** Based upon coordination with interagency partners, the DDA is issuing revisions to requirements for Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services regarding "personal funds." Specifically, ABLE accounts and Special Needs Trusts will not be considered as funds available to the participant for the purpose of authorizing Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services.

Support Broker Training Update

Individuals registered for Support Broker training and certification can find updated links to training videos for Module 9: Self-Directed Services Forms and Module 13: Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services on the [DDA website](#). These videos are also available on the [YouTube playlist](#) of the Self-Directed Services Training Series.

Individuals who have already passed the Support Broker certification test for Module 9 or 13 should review the training modules but do not need to retake the test.

Classmarker Testing Update

On November 5, 2024, the DDA encountered technical issues with our testing platform, Classmarker. As a result, registrants for the Support Broker Training were unable to access their tests. We are pleased to inform you that these technical difficulties were resolved at 8:45 a.m. on November 6, 2024, and Support Broker Training testing is once again available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the DDA at dda.sds@maryland.gov or 410-409-9158.