



INTERIM COMMISSIONER
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Dear Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Participant:

The Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option is now available in CLASS for the following services, if included in your service plan:

- **nursing**
- **physical therapy**
- **occupational therapy**
- **speech/hearing/language therapy**

Habitation and **respite care** will continue to be offered under the CDS option. You have choices. You can choose whether your CLASS Direct Services Agency will manage some or all of these services or if you will manage some or all of these services.

The CDS option allows you to:

- recruit and hire your service provider
- set your service providers' schedules
- determine how much your provider will get paid within the rate set by the state
- offer sick days, vacation days, and bonuses
- supervise and evaluate your provider
- fire your provider, if necessary

If you select the CDS option, a **Consumer Directed Services Agency (CDSA) of your choosing will assist you.** The CDSA will take care of payments to your service providers and will manage payroll taxes for your employees. **If you decide you need additional support to carry out employer responsibilities you may purchase support consultation services.** The funds for this service will come from your CDS services budget. Talk with your CLASS case manager about support consultation services.

Under CDS, you are the employer. As the employer, you are responsible for training and managing your service providers, including dealing with conflicts. You are also responsible for arranging your own back-up services for habilitation and nursing. You may appoint a Designated Representative (DR) to help you with some of these responsibilities. You may also be liable if anything happens to a service provider in your home.

If you decide to self-direct your nursing, you will need to hire a registered nurse to develop your nursing plan of care and supervise the licensed vocation nurse (LVN), if your plan calls for one. The nurse or professional therapist you hire must follow supervision requirements established by their respective licensing entities.

Ask your CLASS case manager for more information about enrolling in the CDS option or expanding the use of CDS to nursing or professional therapies. Your case manager will need to revise your service plan *before* your services can be delivered through the CDS option.

To learn more, talk with your case manager or your CDSA or go to <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/CDS/index.cfm>.