

medina county board of developmental disabilities

What to Know Before Becoming an Independent Provider

If you are thinking about becoming a Certified Independent Provider, here are some questions you should ask yourself before deciding whether or not it is right for you.

Are you informed?

Though being an Independent Provider is an extremely rewarding job, navigating the DD system can be overwhelming and confusing at times. Therefore, it is important to take some time to familiarize yourself the best that you can. Supporting an individual with developmental differences is not the same as working with someone with a physical disability or someone with mental health issues. As an Independent Provider, you will be assisting someone live life how he/she wishes to live it, not the other way around. For helpful resources, please visit DODD's website at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

Are you comfortable using a computer?

Almost every aspect of being an Independent Provider will involve using a computer, so it is important that you are comfortable using one. The application itself, searching for individuals to support, and billing are all completed online. Additionally, many training courses, through both the MCBDD and DODD, may be completed online. Finally, all official communication with DODD will need to be sent via email.

Are you interested in being self-employed?

Becoming a Certified Independent Provider means that you are now self-employed and will be expected to operate as such. You are not an employee of DODD or the County Board; you are essentially an independent contractor. This means you are responsible for paying your own taxes, healthcare, and other benefits, keeping proper documentation, and abiding by and staying informed of the state rules that govern DODD. These rules are revised at least every three years.

Are you still interested?

Great! People with developmental differences need caring, responsible people to help them live, learn, work, and socialize as citizens in the community. We are looking forward to working with you throughout this process and in the future!



Are you patient?

The process of becoming an Independent Provider will typically take at least 1 to 2 months to complete, but at times, it can take up to a year. There are classes to take, documents to gather, and a background check to schedule, all before you can even complete the application. In addition, you need to pay all applicable fees associated with certification before the application can be processed. It can take 30 to 90 days to process the completed application.

Once you're certified, it may take time to find a person to support and to become authorized to provide that support. After you've worked with a person and submit billing for your service, the claims will need to be processed through both the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Medicaid. There will be a three week lapse before you are paid. While this process can take time, it is worth the wait.

Are you hoping to serve a family member or friend?

If so, then that's great news! We know you aim to take great care of your loved one. However, family members are not exempt from any of the rules or regulations that an unrelated provider must adhere to. When you're "on the clock" for your loved one, you are a provider, even if you're still the parent, grandparent, or sibling.

If not, then it is up to you to find a person to support. The Medina County Board of DD will work to identify the supports needed by individuals and add these requests into our online Request for Provider (RFP) portal. It is up to you to respond to requests in the RFP portal based on your certification(s). Responding to an RFP does not guarantee that you will be contacted, interviewed, or chosen to provide services. The MCBDD does not assign providers to individuals.



Provider Website



For support in becoming a Certified Independent Provider, please contact the MCBDD Community Supports Department at 330-725-7751; option 3 or by email at providersupport@mcbdd.org.