

Expand Self-Direction Through Consumer Directed Consumer Reports

➤ **Legislative Response:**

- Legislators should support legislation which will allow more individuals with disabilities to benefit from Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS). The legislation will expand budgets for individuals seeking individualized employment and housing, increase community options for individuals currently residing in institutions, and update the methods used to determine service budgets.

➤ **The Minnesota Vision:**

- All Minnesotans with disabilities should have an annual budget for their services, know how they can spend that budget, be accountable for their expenditures, and have great flexibility in customizing the supports that help them live in and contribute to the communities.
- Individuals with disabilities have the right to choose where they live, learn, work, and play. The Arc Minnesota wants our state's services for persons with disabilities to move more rapidly towards consumer direction. Consumer direction allows individuals and their families greater flexibility in creating support systems, resulting in a more cost-effective service delivery system that better meets their needs.



➤ **Background:**

- As individuals turn 21 and enter the adult services system, many are forced to drop off of CDCS in order to receive support dollars that help them find jobs in the work force and independent housing in the community.
- Consumer-directed supports allow individuals with disabilities to have an individualized annual budgets and greater flexibility in creating their support system. The county and the county and a fiscal support entity provide oversight.
- Five thousand Minnesotans on waiver programs currently benefit from Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS), with individualized annual budgets, greater flexibility to decide how best to spend the funding, and oversight from the county and a fiscal support entity. This is an example of a program helping us achieve our Olmstead Plan goals.

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