

GROUP #6
OPTIONAL CHOICE OF SELF-DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES
(CASH AND COUNSELING)

SUMMARY

The Deficit Reduction Act provides States the opportunity to offer self-directed personal assistance services (also known as “cash and counseling”) as an optional service under the State Plan. Individuals using the service would be able to hire, fire, supervise, and manage the persons providing services and, if the State allows, may use family members to provide the services.

States choosing this option will be required to provide safeguards to assure financial accountability for funds expended, assure that services are provided under a plan of care, and offer additional counseling and management support to the member at the member’s request. The State may limit the population eligible and the numbers of persons to receive these services.

SWOT ANALYSIS – TOP THREE ITEMS SELECTED BY SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Strengths

1. Allow increased flexibility without writing waiver amendments
2. Client chooses only service they want/cost savings
3. Some experience in consumer directed care

Weaknesses

1. No fiscal funding/source plan
2. Will require significant changes in infrastructure
3. Lack of money to follow person

Opportunities

1. Clients can schedule workers around their life
2. Increased number of clients served
3. Time is ripe to do something new (national/state support)

Threats

1. Lack of Community Ombudsman to protect consumer
2. Over regulation can narrow opportunities limiting services available
3. Potential for fraud

Bottom Line: This group recommends that Georgia implement this option