



Division of Developmental Disabilities

6 Harrington Road
Cranston, RI 02920

401-462-3421
401-462-2775 FAX

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Technical Bulletin Number:	19-02 v. 2.0
Date:	Updated 10/04/2021
Subject:	Self-Directed Services: Allowable Good and Services
Applies to:	Self-Directed Participants

Purpose: To detail the allowable goods and services that can be authorized through self-directed plans, but need to be secondary to coverage available through other funding sources such as health coverage. This update clarifies the transportation options that can be used.

Background: Under Medicaid rules, self-directed participants can use their funding allocation not only to hire personal support workers, but also to purchase other goods and services designed to meet disability-related needs. Individual Directed Goods and Services are services, equipment, or supplies not otherwise provided through general Medicaid or the waiver that address an identified need in the individual's service plan.

Information: The following lists provide information on allowable and not allowable requests for goods and services.

Requests for Self-Directed Goods and Services:

- Requests for goods and services must:
 - be submitted with and documented in the annual ISP;
 - have a clear connection to the individual's identified and established goals; and
 - be drawn from an individual's allocated resource package.
- Requests can be made outside of the annual plan in the event of an emergency or exceptional need for a plan modification.
- Goods and Services can only be authorized through self-directed plans if not available through other funding sources such as health coverage.
- Substitutions to the goods and services approved in an annual budget may be made within the budget category with a similar or related alternative that is within the original budgeted amount for that item.
 - For example, if a specific lifelong learning class is budgeted, but the individual elects to attend a different class, this is allowable without submitting a formal budget modification. If the alternate class costs more, this would require a modification.

Examples of Allowable Self-Directed Goods and Services:

- Transportation for covered service-related activities.
 - Pay an increased hourly rate for self-directed staff that has mileage built in to it
 - Pay a per mile rate for self-directed staff (must be no higher than IRS mileage rate)
 - If using alternative modes of transportation other than staff, use the self-directed transportation option (e.g. to pay varying costs for Uber/Lyft, buy a RIPTA bus pass, etc.)
 - Only one method can be used for any given trip
- Health coverage for employees
 - Should not exceed \$3000 annually or \$250 a month
- Therapeutic services funded discretely or in conjunction with a health club membership or other allowable services. Allowable therapies or therapeutic services include, but are not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, personal training, hippotherapy, or other therapy that meets all of the following conditions:
 - 1) helps an individual physically, socially, or emotionally
 - 2) is recognized and provided by a Certified or Licensed practitioner
 - 3) is tied to specific goals in the individual’s ISP
 - 4) is recommended and documented by a physician as a current need
- Health club memberships and enrollment fees
 - Should not exceed \$1200 per year
 - Do not require a physician’s note
- Memberships to organizations when there is a clear connection to an outcome measure listed in the individual’s ISP.
- Specialized equipment and/or assistive technology that will enable or support an individual’s independence, functionality, and/or increased access to the community.
- Lifelong learning that is not associated with college credits.
 - Note: Documentation of the requirement of materials necessary for participation in the class must be provided in order to use allocated funds to purchase the materials.
- Employee Wages and Taxes directly related to support services
- Support Brokerage & Administrative Fees (Workers Compensation, Plan Development)
- Trainings that are related to the individual’s overall health, safety or community participation

Examples of Non-Allowable Self-Directed Goods and Services:

- Food
- Housing costs, including utilities
- Prescriptions or co-payments for covered medical services, including eyeglass frames or contact lenses
- Experimental or prohibited treatments

Other References: Technical Bulletin 18-05 Transportation Billing Alternative

Version Control and Change History:

Version	Effective Date	Rescinded Date	Amendment/Update	Replaces Previous Technical Bulletin
1.0	8/23/18	10/03/21	Original Version	No
2.0	10/04/21	current	Update to clarify transportation options	No