

Developmental Services Lifelong Continuum of Care

Principles for Developing A Continuum of Supports

Supports, both natural and formal supports, means meeting all the needs of a person including: Affordable, stable housing; competitive employment; comprehensive healthcare; accessible, reliable transportation; financial stability; continuing education; and planning for aging.

Partnership. Support for an individual is a partnership among the individual, family, service providers, community, and government. The role of each party varies by individual, with continuity over the lifespan.

Lifespan. People need different types and amounts of supports over the course of their lives. Formal supports [funded by government] complement and supplement natural supports provided by family and community.

Community Inclusion. People are included and engaged in their communities. Inclusion is achieved and facilitated by everyone in the community.

Person Centered. The person drives the planning process. The person, family, and community are all involved in planning supports as lives evolve over time. Supports are based on the needs, goals, and preferences of the individual and change over the lifespan. Self-advocacy and self-determination are primary values.

Choice and Flexibility. Each of us is entitled to have a broad array of choices about how we live our lives and what supports look like. Formal supports are flexible and adaptable to individual needs and preferences.

Coordinated Access, System Navigation, and Quality Outcomes*. Supports exist that are based on these principles, and if they do not, there's a clear path to solve problems or challenges.

***Coordinated Access:** Planning, coordinating, and monitoring all services necessary to enhance the lives of people with ID/DD, facilitated by case management.

***System Navigation:** People using services are supported by case managers to understand what services and support options are available, and how to access and utilize them when and where they're needed.

***Quality Outcomes:** The services, supports, and/or interventions address the needs and achieve the goals included in the Person-Centered Plan (PCP).