Advocating for the rights of citizens with developmental disabilities and their families for over 60 years.

The Arc of Ohio is a statewide membership association made up of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, friends, interested citizens and professionals in the disability field. Together with our individual members and local chapters, we represent more than 330,000 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Ohio Law recognizes The Arc of Ohio as the organization to represent families in legislative decisions.

The mission of The Arc of Ohio is to advocate for human rights, personal dignity and community participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through legislative and social action, information and education, local chapter support and family involvement.

Our values are based on the concept that all people, regardless of ability, have the right to be productive, interdependent members of their respective communities and society at large. We recognize the fundamental role of families in making choices and decisions for their minor children. We also hold that individuals, who are adults, have the right to make their own choices concerning where and with whom they will live and how they will spend their time, regardless of ability.

Visit us online at www.TheArcofOhio.org
The Arc of Ohio created the Family Choice Program (FCP) in order to bridge the gap that some individuals and families are experiencing in Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) services through the IO and Level 1 Waivers.

The FCP is based on the philosophy of self-determination and empowers people with developmental disabilities to enhance the quality of their lives by providing them with the opportunity for choice and control over their services and supports and by acknowledging that they are the best judges of their own needs and how those needs should be met.

The result is a self-directed service that allows the individual, or their chosen family representative, to manage their support workers as a Managing Employer with the authority to control the services they receive, recruit their support workers, as well as determine how and when services will be provided.

The Arc of Ohio will support the individual, or their chosen family representative, by being the employer of record for their support workers. This new collaboration will allow individuals to receive supports from independent providers, through FCP, while waiting for final approval of their certification.

We are very excited to provide this service to the individuals and families throughout Ohio who are looking for a more self-directed program which is controlled by the individuals and their families.

**What is the Family Choice Program?**

The FCP is a Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) service funded by DODD IO and Level 1 Waivers and as such, must abide by all DODD Waiver Rules and Regulations.

**Individuals and Families**

The new role included in the FCP service is that of a Managing Employer. This role will be filled either by the individual receiving services or their chosen family representative and will have multiple self-directed responsibilities including:

- Recruiting, selecting and hiring support service worker(s).
- Determining duties and work schedules.
- Monitoring of waiver budget expenditures.
- Training, supervising and reviewing performance of support service worker(s).

**Support Service Workers**

Support service workers are chosen by individuals or family members and are employed by The Arc of Ohio. Support service workers must complete all trainings and background checks required by DODD to provide services in Ohio.

The Arc of Ohio’s FCP provides support service workers with a choice of employment tracks:

- Begin employment with The Arc of Ohio, submit credentials and payments to DODD to become an independent provider and remain with the FCP until the certification is approved.
- Begin and continue as an employee of The Arc of Ohio and provide HPC services as part of the FCP on behalf of families and individuals with developmental disabilities as long as they choose the services offered.

**How the Family Choice Program Works**

**The Arc of Ohio’s Role**

The Arc of Ohio will support the individual, or their chosen family representative, through the FCP by being the employer of record for their support service workers. In addition, The Arc of Ohio will be responsible for certification, payroll taxes, workers’ compensation and other responsibilities such as:

- Assist with planning, budgeting, and managing services and supports.
- Receive and disperse funds in accordance with individuals’ approved budget.
- Maintain record confidentiality and security according to HIPAA regulations.

**Contact Us Today for Enrollment Information**

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