



Innovative Funding and Support Mechanisms The Human Service Cooperative Model Common Questions

What is a HSC® Co-op?

- Human Service Co-ops are not just human service providers. They are companies where individuals with disabilities, their families and friends have come together, to share in ownership and direction of the company.
- Services are determined by the members and may include: respite, attendant care, personal care, employment, residential, therapy services and more.
- When certified as a self directed company, they may use the HSC® trademark.

Is this a Self-Directed Model?

- Human Service Co-ops provide a self-directed platform that brings people together and connects them to their community.
- Members have a real voice, share in leadership, have one vote, learn from one another and lead together.

Where did this begin?

- In 2003 Arizona received a 3 year New Freedom Grant to develop and implement the self-directed HSC® Co-op model. The first local HSC Co-op, Ascent, started in Flagstaff Arizona in 2004 followed by AZA United and Inspire, Co-op. Each of these co-ops is a qualified vendor through which over 200 people self-direct their services.

Are HSC Co-ops only in Arizona?

- The Federated HSC has also assisted in the formation of cooperatives in Michigan, California, Tennessee, and Illinois.
- This model was designed to fit any state waiver without amendment.

How do local HSC Co-ops get started?

- The Federated HSC supports the ongoing grassroots business development of new HSC Co-ops and provides a forum for sharing knowledge and best practice with developing co-ops, "Learn Once Pay Once".
- A seven step framework for HSC Co-op startup was developed through the CMS New Freedom Grant.
- The Federated HSC works with self-advocates, families, advocacy organizations, professionals and government to assist in the success of a local HSC Co-op.

Tell me more about the Federated HSC?

- In 2004, local HSC® Companies came together to form the Federated HSC to leverage each member's capacity for a maximum effect.
- The Federated HSC is a national cooperative collectively owned by the local Human Service Cooperatives.
- In addition to supporting the development of new co-ops the Federated HSC also facilitates such things as; networking, technical assistance, sharing of best practice, training in all aspect of operation and provides access to a National Purchasing Program.

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