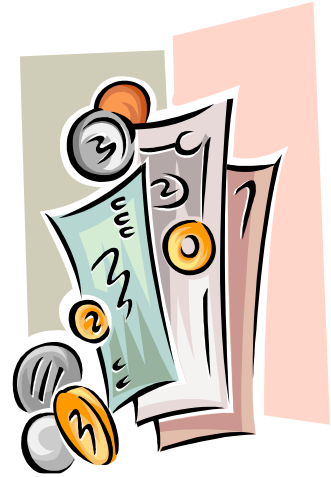


Having It Your Way:

Understanding State Individual Budgeting Strategies

In response to the growing, nationwide interest in self-directed services, NASDDDS recently completed a comprehensive analysis of state individual budgeting policies and practices. The results of this analysis are now available in a new publication entitled, **Having It Your Way: Understanding State Individual Budgeting Practices**.



Based on the results of nationwide survey plus an in-depth examination of the individual budgeting strategies used by nine, selected states, this ground-breaking report:

- Examines the extent to which individual budgeting approaches are being used across the country to afford individuals with developmental disabilities expanded choices and increased control over the services and supports they receive;
- Compares and contrasts the individual budgeting methods employed by nine states with extensive experience in this area;
- Analyzes the processes states use to: (a) establish eligibility and enroll participants; (b) identify paid support needs, including methods of distinguishing “needs” from “wants;” (c) determine individual spending allocations; (d) monitor the adequacy of individual budgets; and (e) assure the health and welfare of self-directing individuals.
- Explores the operational and policy challenges associated with managing public services within an individual budgeting framework and suggests future policy directions that need to be pursued.

The move toward individualization challenges the ability of states to develop funding mechanisms that not only support individual choice and control but also fulfill state governments’ obligation to assure system-wide accountability, equal access, equitable treatment, and service quality. Achieving this balance lies at the heart of current efforts to formulate workable individual budgeting strategies.

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