

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

# Community Informational Sessions September to December 2025

Health and Human  
Services A-1500  
Government Center  
300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55487-  
0240

612-596-6631

**Trainings are offered in  
person and electronically.**



The trainings are free and open to the public. Community Trainings are offered in person and electronically. Each topic includes specific details.

## **Long Term Services & Supports**

### **Promoting Choice and Independence**

Seniors and persons with disabilities receive help to live in their communities as independently as possible through services offered by aging and disability services. Our professionals help people access available home and community-based services and possible funding sources so that they can remain in their home longer and prevent or delay institutional care.

### **To make a referral to Hennepin County's "front door".**

Call the access and initial consultation phone number at **612-348-4111** and select **option 1 for English then 0 for Front Door**.

- General inquiries and consultation do not need the specific person's information.
- Referrals for in-person assessments require the following:
  - 1) Person's name, birth date, Social Security number, address, phone number and contact information.
  - 2) Income, asset, and health insurance information
  - 3) Summary information on health and functioning level

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## How to Register for Community Information Sessions (Required)



To register, **register online**  
[CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us) or call **612-596-6631**.  
Please register early.

Include the title of the training session and your name, phone number and email address, in that order. Please indicate if you prefer an electronic option vs. in person training.

We will verify your registration and will let you know if the session is cancelled.

All sessions are FREE and open to the public.

## It's Working!

**It's Working!** This flexible, creative and unique, self-directed vocational work program that is county funded. The program is for people with developmental disabilities who have case management and currently aren't open to waiver services. This program enables you to employ your own staff, write your own plan and identify vocational services that will help the person with a disability find and maintain employment. **If you qualify there is currently no waiting list.**

### Program criteria

- For those people with disabilities age 14 to adults who don't have waiver services and have DD case management in Hennepin County.
- The program can pay for staff support, vocational assessments, on the job training, goods related to work, job searches and technical assistance and more. It has helped several people start their own business.

**Who will benefit from the information?** Case managers and interested participants who don't currently have waiver services, are aged 14 through adulthood and have a county or contracted case manager for developmental disabilities, and/or related conditions.

### Electronically:

More information is available on YouTube about this program.

- When registering include the title It's Working, your name, your phone number and email address. We will forward to you the specific training topic within one week of your registration.

**Register by email [CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us) or calling 612-596-6631**

# Home and Community Based Waiver Services

An overview of home and community-based waiver programs, including the Community Access for Disability Inclusion Waiver (CADI), Community Alternative Care Waiver (CAC), and Brain Injury Waiver (BI), Developmental Disabilities (DD), Elderly Waiver (EW) and the Alternative Care Program. We will review the service menu for each program, provide examples of how the programs are used. The MN Department of Human Services program ["Waiver Reimagined"](#) will modify the way some waiver services are provided. This session will also provide an overview of Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS).

## Who will benefit from the information?

Parents, legal representatives and people with disabilities

**In Person: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 2 PM to 4 PM**

**Hennepin County – Lady Slipper Room, Ridgedale Library,  
12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305**

[directions](#)

**In Person: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 12 PM to 2 PM**

**Hennepin County – Brookdale Library,  
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

[directions](#)

## Electronically:

YouTube training with more information on this topic is also available.

- When registering include the title Waiver Overview, your name, your phone number and email address. We will forward to you the specific training topic within one week of your registration.

**Register by email [CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us) or  
calling 612-596-6631**

# Guardianship/Supported Decision Making

At age 18, any person is considered a competent adult unless a petition is filed for guardianship in probate court. It will review recent changes in the guardianship law which increase a person's rights and an option called "supported decision making". The training will also describe the individual powers assigned by the court, outline the responsibilities of the guardian, and offer options to complete the process at no cost. This introductory session will provide basic information on the difference between guardianship and supported decision making and conservatorship.

## Who Should View the Training?

Parents, legal representatives and people with disabilities

**In Person: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 4 PM to 6 PM**

**Hennepin County – Lady Slipper Room, Ridgedale Library,  
12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305**

[directions](#)

**In Person: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 2 PM to 4 PM**

**Hennepin County – Brookdale Library,  
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

[directions](#)

## Electronically:

YouTube training with more information on this topic is available.

- When registering include Guardianship, your name, your phone number and email address. We will forward to you the specific training topic within one week of your registration.

**Register by email [CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us) or  
calling 612-596-6631**



## **NEW IN PERSON and ELECTRONIC SESSIONS on Consumer Directed Community Support**

### **Virtual Consumer Directed Community Support (CDCS) Question and Answer Sessions**

This session is for current CDCS users or future users who have questions about Hennepin processes or plan writing. Bring your questions about processes that you need clarified. The focus should be on how CDCS works or how to write/update your CDCS plan. We will not be able to answer specific questions about approved or denied items.

**\*Prerequisite:** You should already have a referral in to Hennepin County for CDCS services or open to CDCS, be open or screened for a waiver and be open to Medical Assistance (MA).

#### **Electronically:**

<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>September 17, 2025,</b>	<b>9 AM to 10 AM</b>
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>October 6, 2025,</b>	<b>4 PM to 5 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>October 15, 2025,</b>	<b>9 AM to 10 AM</b>
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>November 3, 2025,</b>	<b>4 PM to 5 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>November 19, 2025,</b>	<b>9 AM to 10 AM</b>
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 1, 2025,</b>	<b>4 PM to 5 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>December 17, 2025,</b>	<b>9 AM to 10 AM</b>

Click ["join the meeting now"](#) to join the session.

**Microsoft Teams** [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 294 089 049 637

Passcode: qMxnGd

**Dial-in by phone**

[+1 612-263-6117, 518048714#](#)

Phone conference ID: 518 048 714#

**Register by email** [CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us) **or calling 612-596-6631.** If an interpreter is requested, please make the request including the preferred language needed in your registration email or during the phone call. Someone will reach out to coordinate the interpreter.



## **An Overview of Consumer Directed Community Support Services (CDCS)**

In person three-hour trainings that provide an overview of CDCS to learn about what CDCS is and how to navigate the enrollment process. CDCS is a self-directed service that offers flexibility for people receiving services to be the employer of their staff, set a pay rate within a range for them, write their own plan and manage how services are delivered. These monthly, in-person trainings will answer your questions and provide the details you need to start services.

**\*Prerequisite:** You should already have a referral in to Hennepin County for CDCS services or open to CDCS, be open or screened for a waiver and be open to Medical Assistance (MA).

**In Person: Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Hennepin County – Arvonne Fraser Library,  
1222 4th St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414**

[directions](#)

**In Person: Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Hennepin County – Ridgedale Library, Meeting Room 172  
12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305**

[directions](#)

**In Person: Wednesday, Nov 12, 2025, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Hennepin County – Brookdale Library,  
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

[directions](#)

**In Person: Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Hennepin County – Arvonne Fraser Library,  
1222 4th St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414**

[directions](#)

You decide.

Your help.

**Register by email [CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us) or calling 612-596-6631.** If an interpreter is being requested, please make the request including the preferred language needed in your registration email or during the phone call. Someone will reach out to coordinate the interpreter.

# Family Support Grant (FSG)

The Family Support Grant (FSG) program provides cash grants to families of children with certified disabilities. The goal is to prevent or delay out-of-home placement of children with disabilities and promote family health and social well-being by providing access to family- centered services and supports specific to the child's disability.

This session will explain the basics of the FSG program and how to complete the application to ensure program compliance.

**Who Should Attend?** Case managers and families who want additional information to apply for their eligible child.

## Eligibility Criteria:

- Person must be under age 25.
- Must live in biological or adoptive home, or transitioning home from a temporary licensed residential facility if grant is awarded.
- Family income must not exceed \$130,807 (income verification is required, such as, check stubs, W-2's, tax returns, public assistance approval letters)
- Except in cases where extreme hardship is demonstrated
- Must be currently disabled through one of the following ways:
  - Social Security Administration (SSI)
  - State Medical Review Team (SMRT)
  - Children who are working with a CMH case manager
- Individuals that have a Lead Agency Rule 185 DD Case Manager, must still be certified disabled

**Note:** Families receiving services under the Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Community Alternative Care Waiver, Community Alternative for Disabled Individuals Waiver, Brain Injury Waiver, Consumer Support Grant or Personal Care Assistance are not eligible for the Family Support Grant.

**Please reach out to the FSG team to request the electronic training session by emailing [HSPH.ADS.FSG@hennepin.us](mailto:HSPH.ADS.FSG@hennepin.us) or calling 612-348-2939.**

OCTOBER 2025

**YOU** ARE INVITED

# FALL TRANSITION EXTRAVAGANZA!

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Live event full of information about services available for transition-age people with disabilities (ages 16-23) and their families, caregivers, case managers, and school staff.

- A vocational services provider fair
- Presentation on Guardianship and Supported Decision Making
- Presentation from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Info on programs and services from Hennepin County and more!

Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305 -  
Robert H. Rohlf Room

## WHAT TO EXPECT

- In-Person
- Provider Booths
- Refreshments
- Collaboration
- Connection
- Resources
- Answers
- Insight
- Spectacular!

## REGISTRATION

Register by calling 612-596-6631 or email [CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us](mailto:CommunityInfoSessions@Hennepin.us)  
Please include your name, email address, and the topic name (Extravaganza) and date!



**CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!**



## **Supported Employment Training Nicole Rabinowitz, Inclusive Networking**

Nicole Rabinowitz grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Kansas. She was trained in Customized Employment through Marc Gold and Associates and currently is an associate who trains and certifies those seeking Discovery Certification. Nicole is very passionate about supporting job seekers in finding integrated, competitive employment as well as providing support and innovative training to employers, employment specialists and job coaches to create more diverse and inclusive work environments. Nicole is the founder of Inclusive Networking where she provides trainings in Customized Employment and services in discovery, job development and ongoing supports.

Website: [inclusivenetworking.com](http://inclusivenetworking.com)

Contact: [nicole@inclusivenetworking.com](mailto:nicole@inclusivenetworking.com)

# discapacitados abriéndos caminos

**d.a.c Family Center—Serving Spanish families, children, youth with disabilities.**

[www.dacfamiliycenter.org](http://www.dacfamiliycenter.org)

As elders, advocates, educators and friends, the Ana and Kevin Pérez serve Spanish families, children, youth with disabilities, helping them over the hurdles of the healthcare, public services, schools and community systems. By being a constant source of support, d.a.c. has become a home away from home for the diverse community it serves.

- **Educate** We help you understand your child, youth, adult or family member with disability, and teach you how to get the resources they need, and the support you need. Our training is offered to make sure they understand their rights and responsibilities under IDEA also ADA.
- **Connect** We work closely with each family to bridge the culture and language gap that can be frustrating when dealing with hospitals, clinics, schools, and social services. We also host a weekly support group to help families connect with others who are experiencing disabilities. We also provide different trainings and bring resources from the community.
- **Listen** No two families are the same. By listening to your family's needs we make sure you get personalized support to help you cope with disability. From attending hospital appointments, to visiting with you at your home, we are there for you every step of the way.

**Address:**

discapacitados abriéndose  
caminos 107 7th Avenue South  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

**Email:** [centro@dacmn.org](mailto:centro@dacmn.org)

**Internet:**

[www.dacfamiliycenter.org](http://www.dacfamiliycenter.org)

**Phone:** 651-293-1748

**Fax:** 651-293-1744

# ARE YOU 14-26 YRS OLD?

WE ARE HERE, HELPING  
YOU THRIVE



Health - Housing - Education - Transportation and IDs Job or Career - Cash and Food

- Relationships and support



## CHECKOUT

[www.hennepin.us/helpforyouth](http://www.hennepin.us/helpforyouth)





## **MICC (Minnesota Independence College and Community)**

Since 1996, MICC has provided transformative education and training for autistic and neurodivergent adults to live independently, work purposefully and thrive in community. From our home in Richfield, MN, MICC has cultivated a broad network of public and private partnerships to ensure accessibility to our programs and opportunities for MICC participants across Minnesota and nationwide.

### **College program Ages 18-26**

A 3-year experience that focuses on independent living skills, career development, and social engagement. Participants are prepared for successful transitions to adulthood through intentional curriculum and integration into the “real world.” Whether you’re in your apartment, at a local store, or exploring the Twin Cities, you’ll learn by doing, fostering real-world skills that last a lifetime.

### **Workplace Readiness program Ages 18+**

Tailored for adults seeking to advance their careers or enter the workforce, this program emphasizes vocational training, skill development, and workplace integration.

Participants gain practical knowledge through hands-on experience with job partners, an accredited classroom curriculum, guest speakers, workshops, and more, preparing them for long-term success.

### **Summer program Ages 15-25**

An engaging and exploratory experience offering a blend of social skill development, recreational activities, and vocational exploration providing a taste of independence.

7501 Logan Avenue S, Suite 2A, Richfield, MN 55423 612-869-4008

[www.micc.org](http://www.micc.org)

[info@micc.org](mailto:info@micc.org)

*Follow us on social media! @miccbulldogs*

## **The Arc MN**

The Arc MN The Arc Minnesota promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. People with disabilities and their families trust The Arc for information, assistance, education, and public policy leadership. Including and supporting people who have disabilities 641 Fairview Avenue N., St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: [\(866\) 797-1122](tel:(866)797-1122)

[www.arcminnesota.org](http://www.arcminnesota.org)





# WHAT IS E1MN?

**E1MN means Employment First Minnesota. Minnesota plans to support people with disabilities to find jobs. Your waiver case manager, employment service provider, and vocational rehabilitation counselor work together. They help you find and keep a job. There are four parts to E1MN. Engage, Plan, Find, and Keep.**

## 1. Engage

***This part is paid for by your waiver.*** This is a chance for you to learn more about working and what it means for you. It is a time for you to ask questions so that you can make an informed choice. You will work with an employment service provider during this phase.

## 2. Plan

***This is also paid for by your waiver.\**** A job developer from an employment service provider will work with you. They will learn about your interests and strengths. They will also help you get ready for a job search. The job developer will work with you to learn about different kinds of jobs. This may include watching jobs or visiting workplaces. You'll make a resume to tell employers about your skills. And, you'll practice job skills like interviewing.

## 3. Find

***Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) pays for someone to help you find a job.*** This person will help you apply for jobs, talk to employers, and support you with interviews. It could be the same employment service provider. They help you engage, plan, and keep. Or it could be a different provider.

## 4. Keep

***Once you find a job, a job coach from an employment service provider can help you learn how to do your job.*** They will also check in with you to make sure things are going well. They will help you solve any problems you might have with your employer. Your waiver will pay for this service.

Some employment service providers work with both VRS and waivers.\* Finding a provider who does both can make the process easier for you! When you are looking for employment support, your waiver case manager can help you with this.

### **Waiver Case Manager\***

Your county or tribal government will assign you a waiver case manager. They can help you identify, access, and navigate employment support and services. They can also give you information a person needs to make informed choices about working. Hennepin County Funded DD Employment Services and case management may be available for those not on a waiver with DD Rule 185 eligibility.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**

A vocational rehabilitation counselor works for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. They will work with your employment service provider to help you find a job. The job will fit your skills and interests. They might help you get special equipment to be able to do your job or pay for training to help you get a job.

### **Employment Service Provider**

They help you make informed decisions about work. Then, they help you set and reach work goals.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BENEFITS IF I WORK?



## **SSI has work incentives**

They help people on SSI work without worrying about losing their benefits. SSI lets you keep some of your money without reducing your benefits. SSI doesn't count all of the money you earn when they figure out how much SSI you will get. They also subtract disability expenses from your income. They do this before they calculate your SSI payment. SSI also makes it easy to get back on SSI if your job doesn't work out.

## **SSDI work incentives**

You can have a trial work period. It lets you try working without losing your SSDI benefits. You can earn a certain amount of money and still keep your SSDI benefits. If your income goes over the limit, you can keep your SSDI for a few more months to make sure that your job works out.

## **Health benefits**

If your income is low enough, your Medical Assistance will not be cut. Once you start making more money, you can keep your Medical Assistance. There is a special program for people with disabilities who work. You pay a monthly fee —like an insurance premium, and you can stay on Medical Assistance. This will help you keep the supports you use in place.

## **ABLE accounts**

ABLE accounts let you save money without hurting your benefits. You can put money in your ABLE account with money you earn from a job. Family members can also put money into an ABLE account for you. ABLE accounts can pay for things you need because of your disability. You can pay for food or transportation. You can pay for school or job training. You pay for a home and for someone to help you at home.

## **Where to get help**

Don't worry! You don't have to figure this out on your own. Trained benefits planners can help you understand disability benefits. They also explain how work affects them. Their goal is to help you understand how work and your benefits can work together. Contact the Disability Hub to get your questions answered, [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466.

# HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Talk to your county or tribal case manager to find services and supports to help you get a job.

## What if I don't have a case manager?

Contact Disability Hub at [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466. They can connect you with resources to find a job. In Hennepin County you can make a referral for case management services by contacting Front Door Social Services at: 612-348-4111 option 0

## What will happen first?

You will be able to ask about working. You can ask how it affects your benefits and what support can help you work. This will help you decide if competitive integrated employment is for you.

## Then what happens?

You will work with a job developer. You will learn about jobs that fit your skills and interests. You might visit different workplaces. You might try out different jobs or have interviews to learn about a job. You might use this time to learn new skills and to develop a resume. During this time, you will also learn if there are supports that would help you do your job.

## What if I know what kind of job I want?

Once you know what kind of job you want, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) will help you find a job. They will assign someone to work with you on your job search. They will help you fill out applications. They will go to interviews with you and talk to employers about your skills. They will also help you get any work supports you need.

## I got the job! Now what?

You will work with a job coach who will help you learn your job. Once you know your job, they will check to make sure things are going well.



**Customized Employment (CE)** is another way of finding competitive integrated employment. CE matches the strengths, skills, and abilities of people with significant disabilities. It matches them with the unmet needs of employers.



# WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF WORKING?

## Financial security

People who work in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) earn more money. Social Security and benefits programs have rules that promote work. These rules let you work, earn, and save more.

## Learn new skills

CIE gives you the opportunity to use the skills you have. It also gives you an opportunity to learn new skills. Learning new skills can help you feel more confident and feel accomplished.

## Build new relationships

People who have CIE meet new people at work. They have a bigger social network. This can help you have stronger connections with your community.

## Increase Independence

People who have CIE have more independence. Earning more, learning new skills, and having a big social network can all help you be more independent.

## Have a sense of purpose

Working is one way that people have a sense of purpose. Having purpose means that you have meaningful activities and goals. This can help you be healthier physically and mentally.

### Still Have Questions?

Contact the Disability Hub to get your questions answered. Visit [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466.

# COMMUNITY LIFE ENGAGEMENT

## What is Community Life Engagement?

Community Life Engagement is support to help you take part in your community. It is for when you are not at work.

## What is the benefit of Community Life Engagement?

When you find a job, your employer may not need you daily or only need you for part of a day. Community Life Engagement means you can do activities that matter to you. You can do them when you are not working. Community Life Engagement can help you try new things. It can help you learn new skills and meet new people.

## What kinds of things would I be doing?

It depends on your interests and what is important to you! Some people volunteer. Some people work on their hobbies or follow other interests. Some people join groups of other people with the same interests. The goal is to help you be an active participant in your community.

## What if I don't know what I want to do?

A provider agency will work with you to identify your skills and interests. They will help you find opportunities that are a good fit for you. They can also help you explore activities to see what you like.

## How do I learn more about Community Life Engagement?

Your case manager can connect you with provider agencies. You can ask them how they support people to take part in Community Life Engagement.



You can also contact the Disability Hub. They can give you more information and answer your questions. Visit their website at [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466