

# Waiver Services

Medicaid Waivers were developed to give people with disabilities the opportunity to access services in their homes and communities. These Waivers are administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).

The Choice Group is approved to provide **Individual Supported Employment** services under the Developmental Disability Waivers. These services are provided based on the development of a person-centered Individual Support Plan (ISP). This plan is developed in conjunction with your Support Coordinator.

## What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment services enable individuals with disabilities to work side by side in the community with persons without disabilities. We will:

- Assign a Vocational Counselor to be with you each step of the way.
- Find out your interests and abilities.
- Help you find and apply for positions that interest you.
- Attend interviews with you.
- Go to work with you and assist you with learning your job.
- Provide ongoing support.
- Talk with you honestly and be available each step of the way.



*The Choice Group serves clients across most of Virginia. Our Counselors and Workplace Assistants live in, and are familiar with, the areas they serve. We partner with referral sources to assist individuals who have the potential to succeed. We welcome the opportunity to help people achieve their goals and live up to their abilities.*

## How do I access these services?

Before you can access **Individual Supported Employment** services through a Medicaid Waiver, you must apply to the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) for services. Most often, if a person is eligible for services through DARS, Medicaid Waiver funding will be used for long-term follow along services after you have gotten a job. This means that once you have gotten a job, learned your job duties and feel comfortable there, Medicaid Waiver would pay for your job coach to continue checking in with you and your employer regularly. The amount of support you would receive from your job coach in follow along would be decided by you and your support team as part of your ISP.

Sometimes, people need more support than typical follow along services would provide and may need **Workplace Assistance** services. This is an additional service provided under the Family and Individual Supports Waiver and the Community Living Waiver. You and your support team would determine if Workplace Assistance services were needed. The Choice Group is also approved to provide these services.

If you are not eligible for Supported Employment services through DARS, you may ask your Support Coordinator to make a referral to The Choice Group for the services.

The Choice Group staff would be available to work with you through the entire process. We have strong partnerships with DARS and Support Coordinators around the state.

## About The Choice Group

The Choice Group has been dedicated to advancing employment for people with disabilities since 1998. As the largest provider of community based Supported Employment in the state, The Choice Group serves clients across most of Virginia. Our Vocational Counselors either live in your area or are a reasonable commute from it, and are knowledgeable of local job markets.

## Mission Statement

The mission of The Choice Group is a commitment to excellence in meeting our clients' needs, while foremost respecting their individuality and right to make life choices.