



## Community Guide Innovations

**Program Description:** Community Guide Services assists participants in locating and coordinating community resources and activities. These services also support participants, representatives, employers and managing employers who direct their own waiver services by providing direct assistance in their participant direction responsibilities. Community Guide Services are intermittent and fade as community connections develop and skills increase in participant direction. Community Guides assist and support (rather than direct and manage) the participant throughout the service delivery process.

**Philosophy:** Our treatment philosophy is simple by nature. It's a belief that all humans have the same intrinsic needs. We need to feel safe. We need to feel loved. We need a family that makes us feel valued. We need strong and reliable relationships that support our success at home and in the community. We need to be able to find goodness and value within ourselves. Our goal at Alberta is to fulfill these needs for the clients we serve. We strive to provide an environment that will nurture the spirit and build self-esteem in every life we come in contact with.

### **Program Goals:**

1. Informing and coordinating community resources including coordination among primary preventative & chronic care providers.
2. Assistance in locating & accessing non-Medicaid community supports and resources that are related to achieving Individual Support Plan (ISP) goals.
3. Assistance in locating options for renting or purchasing a personal residence, assisting with purchasing furnishings for the personal residence.
4. Instructions and counseling which guides the individual in problem solving & decision making.
5. Advocacy on behalf of the individual.
6. Supporting the individual in preparing, participating in and implementing the ISP.
7. Providing training on the Individual & Family Directed Supports Option if the individual is considering directing his/her own services and supports.
8. Guidance with management of the individual budget.
9. Coordinating services with the Financial Supports Services provider for self-directing individuals. This includes guidance on use of the self-directed budget.
10. Providing information on recruiting, hiring, managing, training, evaluating and changing support staff for self-directing individuals.
11. Assisting with the development of schedules & outlining staff duties for self-directing individuals.
12. Assisting with understanding staff qualifications & record keeping requirements for self-directing individuals.
13. Providing ongoing information to assure that individuals & their families/representatives understand the responsibilities involved with self-



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direction. This includes reporting on expenditures, other relevant information and training.

- 14. When self-directing individuals serve under the Agency of Choice Model, coordinating services with the agency.

**Service Modalities:** Daily demonstration of person-centeredness can be found in all aspects of Alberta care. Community Guides flex his/her schedules to best meet the needs of the participants. Families have an established trust with their Guides—in which they know their Guides have the participant’s best interest at heart. The amount of initial and ongoing training, clinical supervision and staff support are just a few areas in which this can be experienced. The overall dedication and attention to detail each of our Community Guides give to his/her work with the participants is the best demonstration of how we incorporate person-centered thinking into all that we do.

**Population Served:** Community Guide Services are available to Innovations Waiver participants based on needs and the Individual Budget. Community Guide Services are available to participants five (5) years of age and older. Range covers age five to geriatrics. Minimal requirements for Innovations Waiver participants include the diagnosis of a developmental disability and ICF-MR level of care eligibility. Examples of developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to: Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, Autistic Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injuries, etc. Disabilities can be manifested cognitively and/or adaptively.

**Resources:** This service is typically paid through the Innovations Waiver but private pay arrangements can be made.

**CARF Accredited Service:** Community Services: Service Coordination

**Service Definition Requirements:** The provider of Community Guide Services that does not provide Agency With Choice Services may only additionally provide Community Transition.

<b>This forms meets these standards</b>
Authority: CARF 2013 BH 2.A.8, 2.A.1