

## For more information:

Contact your local DHS or Area Agency on Aging office.

To find your local office on the Internet go to:

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/seniors/>  
or call the Oregon Department of Human Services at (503) 945-5399.

Toll Free: 1-866-294-0153.

This brochure is available in alternate formats by calling 1-800-282-8096.

The information contained in this brochure is current as of publication date and subject to change without notice.

*Assisting seniors and people with disabilities of all ages to achieve individual well-being through opportunities for community living, employment and services that promote choice, independence and dignity.*



Oregon Department of Human Services  
Seniors and People With Disabilities  
**INDEPENDENT CHOICES**  
500 Summer ST NE E10 • Salem OR 97301-1073



Independent  
**CHOICES**

## Independent Choices Program

The **Independent Choices** program is a five-year demonstration project which started in November 2001.

This program offers you, the consumer, more choice in the way you receive your in-home services. The program turns control over to you, so that you can choose to purchase services as you need them. You will be able to manage your own care in ways that better meet your needs.

For example, you may choose to hire a care provider and offer better wages than the Client-Employed Provider Program can offer. You may also choose to purchase services not offered in the current in-home services program, such as yard work.

You will be given a cash amount to pay for your services and you will be responsible for arranging, directing and paying for your in-home care services. You will receive about the same amount

of money that the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) would pay for your in-home services. You will have access to training and help with your payroll responsibilities.

If you need to, you can have someone else like a family member or friend take on all of the financial responsibilities and legal obligations for you.

To be eligible for the **Independent Choices** program you will need to do the following:

1. Complete the **Independent Choices** program training and pass an exam that covers your payroll responsibilities as an employer;
2. Keep a stable living situation;
3. Manage your money so that your food, shelter and personal care needs are met; and
4. Choose employees and teach them about your needs so they can provide care services in your own home.

Your **Independent Choices** cash benefit will be direct deposited into a designated bank account that must be separate from your other bank accounts and money.

If you have money left over at the end of the month, you will be able to spend that money in ways that further enhance your independence and quality of life.

The funds in this designated account will not be counted as a resource toward other government or community assistance programs such as HUD, Social Security, LIEAP or Food Stamps.

