

**Mi Via, which means “my way” or “my path,” is
New Mexico’s Self-Directed Waiver Program.**



**Is it
Right
for
You?**



Mi Via – Is it Right for You?

► Who can qualify for Mi Via?

People who meet medical and financial eligibility for:

- Disabled and Elderly Waiver
- Developmental Disabilities Waiver
- Medically Fragile Waiver
- HIV/AIDS Waiver
- Services for people with brain injuries

► What does self-direction mean?

In Mi Via, self-direction means ...

- You have more choices, control and freedom
- You decide how to spend the money approved for your use
- You decide what services and supports you need
- You develop a plan and budget to get your services and supports
- You are responsible and accountable for the use of Mi Via funds

Mi Via helps you have more control of your life and how you live it.

► Can I get help to understand how Mi Via works?

Yes, you can get help. Your family, friends and other people you trust can help you. A consultant you choose can also be a big help to you. A consultant is someone who knows a lot about how Mi Via works and how to be successful with Mi Via.



► Why did New Mexico decide to offer this program?

People who have disabilities and need help in everyday life said they wanted to be able to have more control over the services they get from the state. New Mexico also wanted to find a better way to serve people with disabilities and use available dollars more wisely.

New Mexico believes that people with disabilities:

- Should have freedom to choose where to live, work and learn
- Should receive services at home and their communities if possible
- Can be trusted to make good decisions
- Can design and direct their plans
- Will obtain the best value for every dollar spent

How does Mi Via work?

1. You are here trying to decide which waiver program is best for you. Start by finding out what **Mi Via** is.



2. If you choose **Mi Via**, the next thing you do is select a consultant. Your consultant, who will be trained on how **Mi Via** works, will be your guide, helping you take the path that is best for you.



3. Your journey starts with a map to give you an idea of where you want to go. This is your plan and your budget. Your plan is where you decide what you want to do and what services, supports and goods you need. Your plan will help you to have the life you want. The budget is how much your plan will cost. Your consultant can help you with your plan and budget. When you have your plan and budget done, you must get them approved by the state contractor.

4. After your plan and budget are approved, you will get help from the financial agent to handle the money in your budget. You decide what to purchase from businesses, people or service providers and tell the financial agent to make these payments. When you hire your service workers, the financial agent will write the paychecks for them.



5. You are on your way ... following your plan, making purchases according to your approved budget, being in control, having the life you want.



► So what can I purchase in Mi Via?

After thinking about the help you receive from your family, friends and others and what already works in your life, decide what services, supports and goods you want to purchase. The services, supports and goods you choose must:

- Help you meet your functional, medical and/or social needs and live your life successfully;
- Help you reach the goals you have set for yourself;
- Not be prohibited by federal and state laws and regulations, including the state's procurement code;
- Not be available through another source; and
- Do one or more of the following:
 - Make it easier for you to do things that are hard because of your disability;
 - Increase your safety in your home environment; and/or
 - Lessen your need for other publicly funded services.

► How is Mi Via different from the traditional waiver programs?

There are five big differences:

- You can get services and supports that are not available in other Medicaid programs.
- You will decide what services and supports you need.
- You will have more freedom and control over your services and supports.
- You will decide what your workers do and how much to pay them.
- You can purchase any of the services available under all the existing waiver programs, regardless of your disability and as long as the cost is within your budget.

► If I am on a current waiver program, how do I transfer to Mi Via?

When you choose Mi Via, the services you have now will continue until your new plan and budget are approved. Your consultant will help you put together your plan and budget, get them approved and get everything in place to begin Mi Via services.

▶ **How much money will I get to buy my services and goods?**

If you get services now, you already have a budget. In Mi Via, the consultant contractor agency will have information about the funding available to you and will be able to tell you how much money you have to spend.

In Mi Via, you may have less available funds than in a traditional waiver program, but the costs for your consultant and financial agent services will not come out of your budget. And, most importantly, you will be able to compare prices and control how the money will be spent, so you may actually have more buying power.

▶ **How can I get the most out of my budget?**

- You will be able to buy things that cost less or are a better value.
- You won't have to pay for services you don't want.
- You will direct your own services so you won't have to spend money on administrative costs.
- You can use regular community services to meet your needs, like a health club membership.

Administrative costs are what it costs for providers to be in business. Remember that since you will have more flexibility about what you purchase, you may not have to spend all the money the State says you can have. You may call the **Mi Via consultant contractor agency** at **1-866-786-4999** for more information about the money you can get and what you could buy that you can't get in other Medicaid waiver programs.

▶ **With Mi Via, you will have certain responsibilities**

Some of your responsibilities are:

- You are in charge of your plan and budget.
- You need to find the people you wish to hire.
- You decide whom to hire and what to pay them.
- You make sure your workers get paid what you owe them.
- You make sure you are following your budget.
- You let someone know when you need help.
- You report on how things are going for you.

And, remember, if you need help, it is available. Your consultant can help you. The financial agent can help you. Your family and friends can help you.

You can get the help you need in the way that works best for you. You can also get information written in Spanish and other languages. You can ask to have people help you who speak your language. You can get information in audio, video, CD, DVD, large print or Braille.

► So how do I decide which waiver is best for me?

Use the information in this brochure, the waiver comparison information and other materials that are provided. You can receive the most comprehensive information from the **Mi Via consultant contractor agency**, which can be reached at **1-866-786-4999**.

Other places to get information or help with making your decision include the State web site **www.MiViaNM.org**, and organizations that help people, such as:

- Centers for Independent Living
- Senior Centers
- Protection and Advocacy
- The Arc of New Mexico
- New Mexico Brain Injury Association
- Center for Development and Disability at the University of New Mexico
- Aging and Long Term Services Department Resource Center

Make sure you get all your questions answered. List the reasons why you might want Mi Via and why it might not be right for you. Use the worksheet on the next page to help you figure out what is best for you.

Mi Via – Is it Right for You?

► Pros and Cons

This worksheet can help you figure out if Mi Via is right for you. In the column labeled “Pros,” write out all the reasons Mi Via would be right for you. In the column labeled “Cons,” list all the reasons Mi Via would not be right for you. After you have listed all the pros and cons, ask your family and friends what they think. They may have ideas that you didn’t think of. List their suggestions in the pros and cons columns too. After you have listed all the pros and cons, decide how important each is to you and rank it according to:

Not important = 1 It matters = 2 Very important = 3

When you are done, every pro and every con should be ranked with a 1, 2 or 3.

Pros	Rank	Cons	Rank



Is it Right for You?

For more information about Mi Via, please call:

1-866-786-4999 (toll-free)

www.MiViaNM.org

