

## “IS THIS HOMEMAKER RIGHT FOR ME?”



It may be a difficult decision to allow a homemaker to come into your home to help you. Homemakers come with different experiences and characteristics. How do you know that your choice or the agency's choice in homemakers is the person for you? Your homemaker is the primary person who will provide you the help that you need in your own home.

**Take your time:** Most people are in a hurry for the homemaker to start as soon as possible. You may call the provider and ask questions about the agency. Before you change providers, talk with the agency about their workers and their ability to provide workers in your home for the amount of time that you need. Ask how they will provide a substitute worker if your primary worker is unable to work.

**Shop Around:** You may choose from multiple provider agencies in your area or you may choose to hire your own staff through the Personal Options program. The choice is up to you.

**Be assertive:** Ask questions and let people know what you expect.

**Experience:** Has the homemaker worked for anyone else in the program? Has the homemaker worked in a hospital, nursing home, personal care program, respite program, or other healthcare setting? How long has he/she worked in this field? Has he/she assisted anyone else with the activities like you need on your plan of care?

**Qualifications:** Did the homemaker have a clean Criminal Investigation Background check? Has the homemaker had basic training required by Waiver? When did they have the training?

**Characteristics:** Do you want a worker who is:

- Calm and quiet
- Energetic and gets things done quickly
- Friendly and outgoing
- Hard worker; doesn't sit around
- Shows up on time and is dependable
- Pays close attention to the details
- Listens to you; asks questions
- Respectful and kind
- Honest and trustworthy
- Or, other characteristics that you might need

**Your Special Needs:** Does your worker need to know how to help someone?

- Take a bath, dress, or shower
- Feed themselves; fix a meal; remind you to take medicine
- Vacuum, sweep, mop, etc.
- Transfer from a bed, toilet or wheel chair, in/out of car
- Mouth, skin, hair, dressing care
- Use special equipment (lift, wheel chair, grab bars, walker)
- Or, other types of assistance

**Special Medical Conditions:** Has your homemaker worked with someone with these medical conditions or had training in these areas?

- Diabetes
- Alzheimer's
- Depression, stress, anxiety or mental illness
- Heart or circulation problems
- Breathing or kidney problems
- Movement or neurological problems
- Or, other medical conditions