



Shared Support Maryland, Inc. is a small nonprofit providing completely personalized supports to more than 110 people with developmental disabilities. Our objective is not to run the lives of people with disabilities but to support people to run their own lives. People live in their own homes, alone, or with chosen roommates. People hire and are in charge of their own support staff, hold jobs that pay a living wage, and spend their time in activities of their choosing. We are one of fewer than 75 agencies in the country that provides this kind of person-directed, customized support and services.

In everything we do, the intent is to support people to make decisions for themselves -- to live truly self-directed lives -- and we do this well. We know we provide quality, individualized assistance because the people we support tell us that they accomplish more than they ever have in their lives. With this kind of support, people's capabilities, contributions, and quality of life grow in ways no other kind of service allows.

Shared Support Maryland's defining characteristic is our ability to balance rigor and flexibility. Because life can sometimes be achieved in surprising and unplanned ways, we seek to balance:

- The discipline of person-centered planning and our commitment to be fully responsive to people's changing needs;
- The importance of the dignity of risk and human rights; and,
- Transparency and accountability with the determination to support people in creative ways.

Shared Support Maryland is at the top of the list in providing services in the degree of our commitment to personalized, respectful supports. The ways in which we carry out that commitment is the key to our being able to do things differently. When, as inevitably happens, there are gaps between what people need and we want to do, and what public systems can support, we pursue additional resources and grants that allow us to be responsive to the needs of people with disabilities, of any level and multiplicity, we support. We stretch our boundaries and share our person-centered values, tools, and practices with other agencies that provide services to people with disabilities by providing training to professionals, family members and people with disabilities across Maryland and in other states. It is only when people have the power to shape their own lives can they can fully connect with, participate in, and share their gifts as equals in their community.

We at Shared Support Maryland are proud of what we have created. With our support, and that of our friends, donors and funders, people make decisions for themselves, master skills for life and work, and make real contributions to the world.