Opportunity to Provide Feedback to Federal Agencies
Applied Self Direction Financial Management Services (FMS) experts regularly confer with federal agencies regarding key issues that impact FMS members and the FMS industry. Applied Self Direction will continue to work with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Department of Labor (DOL) with regard to tax issues, labor laws and regulations, federal Medicaid rules, and other regulatory matters that impact FMS members.

Drawing from member feedback, Applied Self Direction seeks to help members achieve and maintain compliance with complex IRS and DOL rules and regulations. Applied Self Direction may also engage with other key federal agencies to examine important issues relating to the health of self direction. At the close of each membership year, Applied Self Direction will report to FMS members on that year’s array of member benefits. The report will also include an overview of recent successes and ongoing challenges in the FMS industry.

Contribute to Development of FMS Industry Best Practices & Opportunities
Applied Self Direction will collaborate with FMS members to identify best practices and new opportunities for the FMS industry. As industry leaders with strong track records of operational excellence, FMS members are best positioned to provide meaningful input on industry successes, challenges, and opportunities for expansion. Applied Self Direction will share best practices broadly with other key stakeholders in the field of self direction, including participants and federal and state agencies, as a means to standardize industry practices and highlight the vast expertise of FMS membership.

Member Inquiry
In instances where members have program issues that require a quick follow-up, rather than in-depth technical assistance (TA), Applied Self Direction will provide information, research, and tools as appropriate. Applied Self Direction is only able to provide information that is in the public domain and will not provide TA on particular issues specific to a single FMS provider or program. If you need specialized TA for your specific organization, please contact info@appliedselfdirection.com to learn about options for individualized TA.

Issue Briefs
Applied Self Direction will release two issue briefs each membership year for FMS members on timely topics in the field of FMS. Topics may include promising practices, payroll practices, emerging technologies, operations management, tax and insurance updates, workforce management, and more. Applied Self Direction will seek member feedback to identify relevant topics throughout the year. We encourage all members to submit any relevant topics to be considered for an issue brief.
E-Mail Updates
Applied Self Direction will send regular e-mail updates to keep members abreast of upcoming events, notable news in self direction, and resources available through Applied Self Direction. All interested individuals within a member agency are welcome to join our mailing list. If anyone within your organization would like to be added to or removed from the member email list, please contact info@appliedselfdirection.com.

Online Trainings
Online trainings on self direction are offered 2 times a year for FMS members and state program members. These trainings address a range of topics in self direction from beginner to advanced. Depending on the topic and session, these webinars will be useful for FMS staff who are new to self direction or those with years of experience in the industry. The self direction trainings will be recorded and available to share within your organization.

Member Webinars
Member webinars are held several times throughout the year to keep members informed of the latest developments and promising practices in the field of self direction and FMS services. Webinar topics are member-driven, timely, and relevant. Applied Self Direction encourages members to reach out with any topics of interest for future sessions. A recording of each webinar and related resources are made available on the members-only area of the Applied Self Direction website following each webinar.

Discussion Forums
To promote the development of peer relationships with other FMS providers and state program members, Applied Self Direction will offer a discussion forum for FMS and state program members in a comfortable setting that facilitates the exchange of information. During this open-structured call, members are encouraged to participate by sharing best practices, discussing industry issues, asking questions, and responding to others’ questions.

Members-Only Website
This password protected area of www.appliedselfdirection.com features materials and resources with exclusive access for FMS members. Here you will find news updates relevant to FMS providers and self direction, information on upcoming member events, and an online library of member resources. The online library features self direction tools and resources, recordings and supporting materials from webinars and trainings, FMS issue briefs, presentations and materials distributed at national conferences, and other relevant resources. Members may submit helpful tools and resources to share with one another via the online library as well.

Opportunity to Contribute to the Expansion of the Marketplace
FMS membership is member-driven and aimed at focusing on areas of general interest in self direction. Applied Self Direction will often share work derived from FMS membership with state and federal agencies and other governmental stakeholders. It is our goal to expand self direction, thus boosting opportunities for the FMS provider marketplace.
Ability to Establish Collegial Relationships
Through membership, FMS members will be in regular contact with other FMS member agencies and state program members. There are various opportunities to ask questions and learn from each other, including webinars, email exchanges, and occasional in-person gatherings in conjunction with national conferences.

Participate in Membership Committees
Applied Self Direction will offer new opportunities for FMS members to participate in membership committees, including expanding the FMS Membership Steering Committee and creating special committees to focus on specific projects and key industry concerns.

Contribute to Public Policy Priorities
FMS members will have the opportunity to discuss critical policy issues related to self direction, to comment on relevant proposed legislation, and receive email alerts on emergent policy issues and announcements.

Contribute to the Research Agenda
Our research helps practitioners be more effective in their work advancing self direction. Member agencies have a voice in identifying areas of research to be conducted by Applied Self Direction and/or the research arm of the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPDS) at Boston College. Applied Self Direction will survey FMS members to identify potential new research projects. FMS member agency representatives will have easy access to new research briefs and reports developed by Applied Self Direction as soon as they are available.

Online Directory
FMS member representatives are listed in an online directory that can be viewed by states and other stakeholders interested in learning more about FMS at www.appliedselfdirection.com.

Conferences
FMS member agencies are eligible for a special member-only discount on Applied Self Direction conferences. Applied Self Direction will continue to hold the NRCPDS biennial FMS Conference and is considering an annual conference on self direction that will place strong emphasis on FMS in addition to other aspects of self direction.

New Benefits
Applied Self Direction strives to ensure that member benefits provide maximum value. Applied Self Direction welcomes member input for improving benefits. FMS members should submit ideas or requests for new membership benefits to info@appliedselfdirection.com.