

With the launch of the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPS), the mission of the

**National Participant Network** has broadened to include representation of participants and their representatives from the large range of participant-direction opportunities that exist across the nation.



The NRCPS and existing NPN members are seeking **new members** to participate in the NPN efforts with the ultimate goal of strengthening the local, state, and national participant voice for self-direction and providing the participant voice for NRCPS' activities.

**“The NPN Network is a great group of folks working together and alongside each other looking for ways to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities.**

**As an advocate, service provider and family member I was asked to join the network to help represent my state's efforts. It has been very rewarding and I look forward to future opportunities to learn, work and play together as we help remove barriers for others.”**

**-Debbie S.**

**Lexington, KY**

**For more information and to join the NPN:**



To join, find us on Yahoo:  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/npngrps/](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/npngrps/)



Join our group discussions on Facebook: Search “National Participant Network”

Althea McLuckie  
NPN Coordinator  
Phone: 575-776-1755  
E-mail: [mcluckie@bc.edu](mailto:mcluckie@bc.edu)

[www.ParticipantDirection.org](http://www.ParticipantDirection.org)

# National Participant Network



***Strengthening the participant voice for self-direction***



## The 5 “W”s of the NPN:

**W**ho is the NPN for?

The **National Participant Network** (or NPN for short) is a national network of participants of all ages and disabilities (and their representatives) who participate or plan to participate in self-direction to remain in and be part of their community.

**Self-direction**, also called participant direction, is a model in which a person with **long-term support** needs decides how he or she receives long-term supports in the community. The individual may decide how to use his or her budget, which can include the ability to hire workers and/or purchase goods and other types of services that make living in the community possible and accessible.

**W**hat does the NPN do?

The purpose of the NPN is to strengthen the local, state, and national **participant voice** for self-direction and to provide input for the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services products and services. NPN members also have the opportunity to provide input on national policy efforts related to self-direction.

**W**hen does the NPN meet?

The NPN meets via a toll free teleconference line on a **monthly** basis on the fourth Monday of every month. Subcommittees may also meet in between the monthly calls.

**“NPN members apply their personal experiences to efforts to grow and improve participant direction in their state and across the country, impacting the lives of many others in addition to their own.”**

**-Erin M., NRCPPDS**

**W**hy should I get involved with the NPN?

There are many benefits to being involved in the NPN. For example, you can:

- Develop **relationships** with peers from other states that will inform and support your work with local, state, and national participant groups
- Play a role in **expanding self-direction** to others by working with local and state policy makers as well as other stakeholders
- **Learn** about promising practices in other states and share promising practices from your own state
- Provide the **participant voice** for NRCPPDS’ products and services and national policy efforts that impact participant direction

**W**here can I find more information?



Join the NPN Yahoo Group:  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/npngprps/](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/npngprps/)



Join our group discussions on Facebook:  
Search “National Participant Network”

Find more contact info on the back of this flyer.

NPN achievements include:

- Developing participant-designed tools to aid in the growth of self-direction, such as Got Participants?
- Providing input on national policies and projects
- Collaborating with other state and national networks
- Testifying at state and federal hearings pertaining to personal experiences with self-direction
- Presenting at state and national conferences on the benefits of including participants in the design of services
- Helping other members create and maintain a local participant group in their state



**“The NPN has enlightened my insight on how I can consume information from the national programs and then share with others in my state how they can finally be completely independent and take control of every aspect of their LIFE including their finances!”**

**-John M.,  
NPN Member**