**Consumer Directed Employer- *Listening Sessions***

**What is happening?**

The Consumer Directed Employer project wants to hear from you. You are invited to participate in a listening session to learn about the Consumer Directed Employer and to share your input about the project. This is an opportunity to talk to project staff to make sure your voice is heard.

**Who should attend the sessions?**

The sessions are intended for Individual Providers of personal care, consumers who receive personal care from an Individual Provider, and their families. Because space is limited, DSHS and Area Agency on Aging staff are encouraged to attend the monthly staff webinars instead of attending the listening sessions.

**What will the listening sessions cover?**

* Background on the Consumer Directed Employer and why this change is happening.
* Information about the new federal requirements for states to implement Electronic Visit Verification.
* Opportunities to express your ideas and input on the Consumer Directed Employer project.

**How do I sign up to attend a session? Is registration required?**

We are requesting all attendees register in advance. Please email the following information to CDE@dshs.wa.gov:

* Your name
* Your email address
* Your role (IP, consumer, or family member)
* The session you would like to attend (see below)
* Please let us know if you need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (such as a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device or print material in digital format) at least 14 days in advance of your selected meeting.

Space is limited. We will accept registrations until the space is full. Finalized meeting logistics will be emailed to you at least one week before your requested session.

**What sessions are available?**

1. June 15, 2018 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Vancouver
2. June 20, 2018 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lynnwood
3. June 21, 2018 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Renton
4. July 25, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Spokane
5. July 26, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Kennewick
6. July 30, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lacey

**Why is the change to a CDE happening?**

The IP work force has grown to 35,000 workers and the complexity of managing this workforce has greatly increased.  Time spent by case management, customer service, and other social services staff on the administrative functions of IP management takes away from the amount of time available to perform assessment, service planning and case management for the individuals we serve.

[*Senate Bill 6199*](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/6199-S.PL.pdf) passed the legislature during the 2018 legislative session; authorizing the Department to contract with a Consumer Directed Employer as the legal employer for IPs. The project will efficiently transfer credentialing, payroll and other employer responsibilities from the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration, Developmental Disability Administration and Area Agencies on Aging to the Consumer Directed Employer.  This change is expected to take place no earlier than July 1, 2020.

This change in relationship will allow us to spend more time to support individuals in need of services across our system. Consumers will have more time from our staff while also retaining the right to hire, supervise, and terminate the individual providing their care.

**Where can I find more information?**

* Visit the new [CDE webpage](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/cde).
* Attend one of our regular webinars for more information and progress reports. Webinar information is available on the CDE website.