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INFORMATION BULLETIN

COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE: PERSON-DIRECTED SERVICES TO KEEP PEOPLE AT HOME

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While the Ontario government invests in mass institutionalization of older adults and people with disabilities, thereby denying their human rights to reasonable accommodation in the community, Connecticut's Community First Choice (CFC) program is helping people to age in their own homes.

Established as part of the Federal government's Affordable Care Act, Medicaid beneficiaries can now receive self-directed services including home safety modifications, meal preparation and delivery, assistance with household chores, and activities of daily living like bathing and dressing.

Individuals or their Powers of Attorney can choose which services they will receive, manage them, and decide who will provide them.

In other words, service recipients are in the driver's seat in a person-directed approach, not a person-centered one where service providers remain in charge.

Self-directed services are available to those who would otherwise be institutionalized so that they can choose what they need to age in place.

If Connecticut can facilitate people hiring their own personal care attendants, why not Ontario?

Community First Choice should be available in Canada, and it should be part of a comprehensive National Home Care Program funded under the Canada Health Act and delivered under OHIP.

For more information please see <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Community-First-Choice>