

# Are you interested in becoming self-employed?

An independent provider is a self-employed person who provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

- Independent providers must be certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.
- Independent providers provide services directly; they cannot employ someone else to provide services on their behalf.

## Step 1: Independent Provider Orientation

Just take this 10-minute [orientation](#) and you are on your way. This is required before you can apply for certification. Make sure to print the certificate at the end of the orientation.

## Step 2: What you need to become certified

You will need proof of the following to become certified:

- **Verification of age:** All provider applicants must be at least 18 years of age and provide your Birth Certificate
- **High School Diploma/GED:** Except for persons who held provider certification or who were employed by a certified agency provider on September 30, 2009
- **State Identification:** Valid driver's license or other government-issued photo identification. You may be required to provide a valid driver's license AND driver's abstract from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles NO MORE than 14 days prior to your application submission date.
- **Social Security Card:** A copy will be required with your application  
*Need a new, corrected or replacement card? Some businesses offer Social Security name changes or cards for a fee. [Social Security](#) provides those services and more for free.*
- **Current report from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII):** Clark DD offers BCII and FBI criminal background checks services to providers. Contact us for scheduling and fee information.  
*Find more [organizations that offer Web Check](#) on the [Ohio Attorney Generals' website](#).*
- **First Aid Certification:** Valid American Red Cross or equivalent certification in First Aid  
*In-person training required, find an [American Red Cross](#) First Aid training near you or see our [training opportunities](#)*
- **CPR Certification:** Valid American Red Cross or equivalent certification in CPR  
*In-person training required, find an [American Red Cross](#) CPR training near you or visiting our [training opportunities](#) for trainings on site.*
- **Provider Initial Certification Training:** Evidence of completion of the required eight hour initial provider training  
*This may include a certificate provided upon completion of all eight hours of Initial Provider training.*

## Step 3 : Apply for Certification

You will need to create a [user account](#) with DODD and complete and on-line application form. We understand that the certification process can be overwhelming and are here to help. Check out our frequently asked questions and if you still have questions [contact us](#). Please be aware, some services have additional requirements. You can find all requirements for each service under the [Rules in Effect](#) page at DODD. You will also be notified during the certification process of additional requirements based on the type of service you choose to be certified to provide.