



National Participant Network (NPN)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPANT CONSULTANTS

- ◆ The NPN believes that participants' specialized knowledge is a valuable commodity in the development of any program.
- ◆ The NPN recognizes that the level of experience that many participants have qualifies them as professionals in the field and supports the utilization of those consultants with disabilities who have the personal experience and skills to do the job well.
- ◆ The NPN believes that the participant viewpoint cannot be provided from any other source and should be viewed in the same framework as any other consultant with specialized knowledge and compensated accordingly.
- ◆ The NPN believes that individuals with disabilities contributing to the application and expansion of participant directed services should be compensated at rates commensurate with non-disabled consultants with similar levels of expertise in the field.
- ◆ The NPN believes that in many cases, individuals with disabilities have experiential education at least as valuable as formalized education within the context of disability services.
- ◆ The NPN believes that services provided by a participant consultant are likely to be viewed with more respect and consideration when the services are paid for.
- ◆ The NPN believes that those individuals without typical communication skills may need to express themselves in an alternative manner, which does not decrease their value as consultants.
- ◆ The NPN believes that all people with disabilities have something to contribute.