

March 19, 2020

To: Employment and Day Support Activities providers

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

This letter is to address employment and Day Support Activities (DSA) providers.

I understand that this is a very difficult time as we work to keep people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) safe and healthy during the outbreak of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Right now, the focus is on the health and safety of the people we serve as well as staff. However, when this situation is resolved, we will need all our providers and staff to support people to continue work, increase their hours or potentially get back to work. At this time, ODDS is doing everything we can to support providers so that you can support individuals and families during this unprecedented time.

I wanted to remind providers of all the employment and DSA-related policies and guidance that has been posted, including:

- [Scenarios tool guidance](#) for providers and case management entities
- [Emergency plans](#) for DSA/employment providers transmittal
- [Closures](#) for DSA and employment providers that congregate people
- [Provider template](#) that you can adapt for your own use to notify individuals in your services about limiting activities
- [Questions and answers](#) for DSA and employment providers from March 16 call
- [Provider expectations](#) for risk mitigation
- DSA/Employment [contingency funding](#)

A reminder that if you are continuing to operate DSA or employment with less than 10 people to still follow the direction of federal, state, and local officials.

ODDS is currently offering contingency funding for services that had to be limited or end due to size. The details are outlined in a [transmittal](#).

Again, I know this is a difficult time and providers are making tough decisions about staffing. Employment remains important to ODDS services but in the current moment we ask that health and safety must be the top priority.

You can find out more about COVID-19 and how to protect yourself on the [Oregon Health Authority's website](#).

Materials and information from ODDS on COVID-19 are [online](#).

Thank you for your support and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Acacia