

May 5, 2020

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: [Employment First](#): New training opportunities available**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

I am excited that we have several new online and virtual training opportunities to offer the field.

First, the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) has purchased a four-month subscription to the [Open Future Learning](#) (OFL) training service. OFL provides a variety of videos and training modules that are specifically related to topics about intellectual and developmental disabilities. The OFL service will be available for free from May 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020. Agencies, Personal Support Worker Job Coaches, Independent Contractors, CDDPs and Brokerages are eligible to participate in this training opportunity.

This training opportunity is designed to help improve service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing staff to get easy access to on-demand trainings. We also hope increased training opportunities will help when the COVID-19 virus response is resolved as providers will be able to quickly onboard and train new staff or returning staff, as needed. Transmittal AR-20-055 with full details is [online](#).

ODDS has also approved certain Direct Support Professional Core Competency trainings to satisfy the annual training requirements per OAR 411-345. Because some of these training are short in length (10-15 minutes), the trainings have been grouped in two blocks. Block A consists of eight trainings and will count towards four hours training credit. Block B consists of 17 trainings and will count towards eight hours of training credits. All trainings in each block must be completed to be eligible for the designated credits. The trainings are free and can be found in iLearn.

To see which specific trainings are approved, please reference the [Department Approved Training List](#). A transmittal will no longer be sent out when this list is updated so please check the list regularly.

As a reminder, we also have the first Employment First module, How Social Security Administration Work Rules Support Employment, posted. It is available for free on the state's [iLearn](#) platform or directly at: <https://go.usa.gov/xvYbh>.

Go to [these instructions](#) if you need help setting up an iLearn account. Please use Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Chrome to view the training and avoid Internet Explorer. If you experience technical issues call 503-945-5759 or send an email to [employmenttraining.review@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:employmenttraining.review@dhsosha.state.or.us)

Finally, ODDS has expanded the opportunity for agencies and personal support worker (PSW) job coaches that provide services in Oregon to be reimbursed for the registration cost of pre-approved online Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) curriculum. This is a great opportunity for agencies and PSW job coaches looking for continuing education credits, and to advance in their skill set and professionalism. Agencies that provide services in rural areas will be given higher priority but all agencies and PSWs are encouraged to apply. The program will end once the funding is exhausted or until the end of the contract, December 31, 2020. Reimbursement documentation will need to be submitted by November 15, 2020. Agencies that are already participating in this program can send in another request to have additional staff approved. Additional details are in the [transmittal](#).

Thanks as always for your support in serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon.

Acacia