

July 13, 2020

To: Employment First and Vocational Rehabilitation Stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator and Keith Ozols, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation
(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) are committed to doing everything possible to support providers during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to offer employment services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation recently announced temporary increases in outcome payments for specific job placement milestones. These increases are tied to specific outcomes and are available June 1 through Sept. 30, 2020. More detail is available in the [director's message from VR](#).

ODDS recently was approved by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for an additional two periods of 30-day retainer funds. This follows an original round of contingency funds for employment and Day Support Activity funding issued in March. More information is available in the transmittal [AR 20-069](#).

In addition, both VR and ODDS have increased free training opportunities during the pandemic. VR is offering multiple free trainings, including ones on Motivational Enhancement Group Intervention and on Job Placement Contract Services. All these trainings are available in [iLearn](#).

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 is available for free through August 31, 2020. Details are at: <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/ar/2020/ar20055.pdf>.

Thank you for supporting Oregonians with disabilities during this time.

Acacia and Keith