

## Questions from July 14, 2020 VR/ODDS Stakeholder Call

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q) regarding employment policy questions for Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) on topics including: Contingency Funding,

These questions are taken from a phone call with the field and stakeholders held on July 14, 2020, as well as other inquiries sent in via email.

### ODDS Updates:

1. For providers, ODDS issued additional rounds of contingency funding. CMS is allowing two additional 3-day periods for DSA and Employment. Transmittal AR 20-069 has details. ODDS is requesting providers submit new grant agreements and share any additional grants or funds they may have received such as CARES Act or PPP loans.
2. ODDS reopening plans. As a state system, guidance was given that no group services can happen without approved reopening plans. Currently reviewing plans for providers in counties in phase 2 or early approval for phase 1 counties. Reopening worker guide gives details on ODDS COVID-19 web page.
3. New guidance from Governor Brown on masks and limited amount of people in indoor activities. ODDS will revise some guidance.
4. Working on new podcasts and success stories. Doing everything to return to some sort of normal.

### VR Updates:

1. Focused on virtual intakes and training on how to do those and rescheduling intakes from when COVID first hit. Have connected with every person who asked to reschedule. Doing some in-person intakes if the person requests but doing most intakes are being done by Zoom or by phone.
2. Process has helped to create a streamlined VR intake form. Also developed training on virtual intakes.
3. Beginning June 1, temporarily increasing rates for job placement outcomes for those providers who have applied for new job development contract.
4. Monthly staff broadcasts well received and will continue focus on communications.

**Question:** Is billing occurring simultaneously in eXPRS for Personal Support Workers and those delivering remote services?

**Answer:** Duplicate billing was only allowed first month in April, since then no duplicate billing allowed. If it is needed for a Personal Support Worker to work at same time another service is being given, an exception request needs to be made.

**Question:** When can Discovery resume?

**Answer:** Discovery services are allowed if a provider submits a Phase 2 reopening plan with specific Discovery information. If providers comfortable to reopen, they should submit their plan.

**Question:** Are the extra payments for job placement for VR pro-rated?

**Answer:** It would be backdated to June 1 if the placement happened then and the provider has an approved new job development contract.

**Question:** Was told that person must be in VR services already to do Discovery. Was working with someone on Discovery when COVID happened and had to stop. Does that person need to be in VR?

**Answer:** Discovery is a service for folks who want to go to work so in general, should make referral to VR. However, if the person was already in Discovery before COVID, it would be ok to resume service even if not in VR.