

Questions from January 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: 20 Hour Policy, Discovery, QRF Policy, Continuing Education Credits, and Track 3 Pilot.

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

Updates:

1. ODDS is working on a pilot that would allow individuals residing in Residential Settings to self-direct job coaching services using a Personal Support Worker (PSW) Job Coach. This would not allow a PSW to work in a residential setting, but would allow someone in a residential setting to utilize a PSW Job Coach on the job. This is occurring for a number of reasons such as lack of provider capacity, especially in rural areas, as well as individuals with specialized or significant support needs who may prefer to utilize a PSW Job Coach. As far as we know, Oregon is the first state to try this. We have had a few counties sign up already and will be working on a process to get started. More information to come shortly.
2. ODDS has issued a new list of trainings that count toward Continuing Education Credits. This includes the Employment First podcasts. Listening to four podcasts counts toward one hour of CECs. An [Information Memorandum](#) has more details.
3. ODDS and VR jointly operated guidance regarding Competitive Integrated Employment and Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities (QRFs). QRFs do not count as Competitive Integrated Employment in federal law for VR or ODDS. Federal guidance is clear that QRFs do not count as CIE because they mandate a ratio of people with disabilities in order to secure contracts. Depending on the assessment done, someone working in a QRF could qualify under Employment Path or Small Group, but it would depend on the assessment. If you were already assessed as Small Group or Employment Path, this does not apply to you. This policy is addressing those who were billing job coaching for CIE in a QRF, which is not allowed. A toolkit and other documents related to this policy are on the [Employment First Policy page](#) under “Competitive Integrated Employment.”
4. On November 1, 2019, ODDS and VR issued updated policies regarding maximizing hours and the 20 hour standard for planning employment services. The [ODDS Worker Guide](#) gives guidance on how a Services

Coordinator or Personal Agent assists a person receiving or interested in receiving Supported Employment Services to achieve their goal for number of hours worked per week using the standard of 20 hours per week. The [VR Information Memorandum](#) gives guidance to VR Counselors on how to support someone to achieve the hours they want, and to document those decisions.

Question: Is there an update on what to do while iLearn is down?

Answer: iLearn, which is used for core competencies as well as ongoing training, has been down since late December. The good news is we heard that it will be back up very shortly. In the meantime if you have someone that needs this in order to enroll, such as a PSW, please email employment.first@state.or.us. VR also has people impacted by iLearn being down and VR vendors can contact: VR.Training@dhsosha.state.or.us. **Update as of 1-15-2020:** iLearn is back online and available.

Question: Is there an update on Discovery and when the new profile will roll out?

Answer: The new Discovery form and profile will not roll-out until Discovery training is done. The training will be a free, on-demand online module. ODDS expects the training to go out in mid-2020. This free training is more policy and practice. People who want to become certified to provide Discovery will still need to go through the more rigorous training on the theories of Discovery.

Question: Can you give information on Track 3 and how it works?

Answer: A Track 3 pilot was launched November 1, 2019. VR is running the pilot for one year. The goal is to support individuals who meet the criteria from track 2 to track 3 for higher payment. In 2017, 52 individuals met the track 3 criteria. So far under the pilot we've had 150 people move into track 3. If providers have questions about people they support, they should check with their local VR office to see if they have already submitted documentation.

Question: Will OELN trainings be offered again?

Answer: ODDS has contracted with WISE to develop online modules that will be free. We hope those will be launched in 2020. ODDS no longer has a contract with WISE to offer free Oregon Employment Learning Network (OELN) trainings but WISE is offering these Acre-certified trainings in the Portland metro area for a fee.

Please see the updated [Continuing Education Credits Information Memorandum](#) for additional details.

Question: Has the process for transportation exceptions changed?

Answer: The policy and process for transportation exceptions has not changed. If you have questions about a specific situation, please contact ODDS. We are hoping to a new employment transportation rate soon. We are also starting a rural stakeholder group to discuss some of these issues.