

5-12-17

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: [Employment First](#): HCBS and integrated settings

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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Some of you may have heard about the recent decision by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to extend the deadline for implementation of the [Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) integration rules](#) to March 17, 2022.

This is designed to give providers of residential and employment services in Oregon more time to implement their transformation plans to community-based services. Statewide and provider transformation plans must still be approved by 2019. In its [notification](#), CMS reiterated its commitment to promoting community integration as a high priority and did not change or lower the standards around community integration requirements. The state of Oregon has always supported individuals to be independent and integrated into their communities.

Before there are any formal changes to timelines in Oregon, DHS has to meet internally and with stakeholders to discuss Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) and what the extension means for the full HCBS transition plan. While we want to ensure that providers have time to transform, we also have to balance other priorities such as the Lane v. Brown settlement agreement.

The Lane v. Brown legal settlement requires an annual increase of the number of people in sheltered workshop services getting community jobs (and a decrease in the number of people in sheltered workshops and a decrease in sheltered workshop hours). For example, the state is legally required to get 1,115 new jobs for people in sheltered workshops by 2022. Regardless of an extension in HCBS, Oregon will continue to assist providers in transforming their services and support people in obtaining individual, integrated jobs in the community.

Employment providers who currently provide sheltered or facility-based services should continue transforming to provide community-based services. The “no new entries” policy remains in place and Oregon does not allow new entries into sheltered workshops.

I encourage providers to apply for the next round of transformation grants, found in the designation “DHS-4216-16,” titled “Request for Proposal (RFP) Request for Applications Service Provider Transformation Project,” in the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN). **The next deadline for RFA 4216-16 is July 28, 2017 at 3 p.m.** Providers who may want to apply now before this deadline can access materials for RFA 4216 through the ORPIN website:
<http://orpin.oregon.gov>

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and Employment First is committed to continuing efforts to increase employment opportunities and community integration for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please stay tuned for additional updates as they are available.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

~ Acacia