

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Employment Path Facility and HCBS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services adopted regulations in 2014 that requires all Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) be provided in integrated settings. Under these regulations, Medicaid funding for employment services in sheltered workshops will not be eligible for federal funding as of March 2019, unless a specific exception has been approved. Oregon has given Medicaid-funded providers until Sept. 1, 2018 to comply. Providers that are supporting people to transition to integrated, community settings can apply for an exception that will give them additional time to meet the new requirements. The exception cannot be extended past Sept. 1, 2020.

What is the difference between a Sheltered Workshop and an Employment Path Facility Setting?

Sheltered Workshop

A sheltered workshop is a place where primarily people with disabilities congregate to work, often at less than minimum wage. A sheltered workshop is not HCBS-compliant. This means that without a variance from the state of Oregon, a sheltered workshop is not eligible for federal funding after March 15, 2019 if they do not have a DHS-approved exception demonstrating that they are making substantial progress toward transformation.

Employment Path Facility

Non-sheltered workshop Employment Path Facility services are not paid work. It may be things such as skills-building at a provider site that facilitates community-based services. For example, a provider may offer a class that takes place both in a provider-owned setting and in the community.

Employment Path Facility service settings must be HCBS-compliant by Sept. 1, 2018. This is a service that must be used in combination with Employment Path Community or another community service. It is not a stand-alone service. The goal of Employment Path services is for a person to develop employment skills that may be used in an integrated job. These are time-limited services as outlined in the person's Individual Support Plan.