

5-25-18

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Home and Community Based Services Reminder

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

[Like Us](#) on Facebook!

Most providers in Oregon know that we have been preparing for the new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) regulations for many years. Under these regulations, employment services not given in a community setting or with significant community components to ensure integration will not be eligible for federal funding as of March 2019, unless a specific exception is made. Oregon has given Medicaid-funded providers until Sept. 1, 2018 to comply.

This message is a reminder that the Sept. 1, 2018 deadline is coming soon. We recognize that most employment providers in Oregon have been working hard to either fully transform, or to come to into HCBS compliance.

I want to acknowledge all the work that has already happened. More than 30 Oregon providers have received transformation grants. About 20 providers have fully transformed all or most of their sheltered work settings. And many more day and employment providers have come into full HCBS compliance.

For those who have not fully transformed, sheltered workshop providers showing progress toward full compliance can apply for an exception. The deadline for providers to apply for an exception is June 1, 2018.

A full worker's guide with more information is online at:

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCBS/ODDS/HCBS_SW%20Request%20for%20Additional%20Time_Worker%20Guide.pdf

We know that there are still some questions remaining. In the next few months, we will issue additional communications, including a fact sheet on Employment Path Facility services, a webinar, and a conference call. Please stay tuned for additional information.

I know this has been difficult and sometimes complicated work. Oregon is committed to helping people live full lives in their communities. This is one more step in that process. Thank you for your work.

~ Acacia