

Jan. 25, 2019

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Announcement regarding three exciting new

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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I am excited to announce three new programs and policies to help build capacity and expertise in providing employment services in Oregon.

First, ODDS has made funding available for a **new employment provider mentoring program that will pay qualified Medicaid agencies to provide technical assistance to employment providers** on topics including Discovery, Job Development, Budgeting, Business Operation, Job Development Modeling, Rule Compliance, Behavioral Support, and Protocol Development.

Agencies that apply to be a mentor of employment-related services and are approved by ODDS will be compensated at a rate of \$75 per hour.

Applications to become a mentor of employment-related services are now being accepted. The complete application form and supporting documents are due by March 15, 2019. Full information is available on the Action Request transmittal at: <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/ar/2019/ar19003.pdf>. A call to answer questions about this program is scheduled for Feb. 6, 2019 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The number is 877-411-9748; code: 5268628.

Second, we are setting up a **reimbursement program for Medicaid-enrolled provider agencies with employment endorsements in rural Oregon**. This is designed to make trainings more accessible to employment agencies in rural areas. Eligible agencies will be reimbursed for the registration costs of pre-approved online curriculum. The reimbursement will be provided after the agency's staff attends the training and receives certification. The terms of this reimbursement program are "first come, first served." It is budgeted for a total of \$20,000 and will end once the funding is exhausted.

The funding is only available for either the Griffin Hammis: "[ACRE Online Certificate in Community Employment](#)" or Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU): "[Supported Employment Online Course](#)"

This program is only for agencies that operate and have staff in rural areas as defined by the minimum wage classifications, outlined in Oregon statute. These are counties are: Baker, Coos, Curry, Crook, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallow, and Wheeler.

Once the agency chooses which curriculum it will attend and how many staff members it wants to send, it must notify ODDS. The agency will send an email, no later than March 1, 2019, to EmploymentTraining.Review@dhsosha.state.or.us and state what training it plans on attending, the name of the staff who will be attending and the date the curriculum will start and end.

Full information is available on the Action Request transmittal at: <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/ar/2019/ar19004.pdf>. A call to answer questions about rural reimbursement program is scheduled for Feb. 5, 2019 from 9 to 10 a.m. The number is 877-411-9748; code: 5268628.

Finally, ODDS just released a **policy transmittal and worker's guide outlining circumstances under which ODDS may fund the job development 90-day job retention payment** if a person obtains a job without using Vocational Rehabilitation-funded services. The transmittal is at:

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/pt/2019/pt19002.pdf>

The criteria includes:

1. A person obtains a job without using VR-funded services;
2. The job meets requirements outlined in the ODDS Worker's Guide on Competitive Integrated Employment;
3. The person's job is stable, consistent with the ODDS Stabilization Worker Guide;
4. The person has retained the job for 90 days or more; and
5. The service is not available through VR.

VR Job Development services are generally "not available" if the person obtains a job without an open VR file and the person's job is stable.

Generally, a job is considered stable if the following are true:

- The person's employment goals have been achieved.
- The person is working the number of hours they want to work.
- The person is performing well on the job.
- Ongoing services are available (e.g. job coaching is available).

- The job is a good fit, which may include that the person's disability and/or medical-related needs are being met through natural or paid supports.

The hope with this retention and direct placement policy is to ensure that people who obtain community jobs and are stable in their chosen jobs can still receive supports. Unless all the criteria are met, as outlined in the [Worker Guide](#), people should go through VR for job services.

We will be discussing this retention policy at the ODDS/VR quarterly stakeholder call on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Please register for the Quarterly VR/DD Stakeholder Call on Jan. 29, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. The number is 877-336-1831, guest code 230706 and the Go to Webinar link is

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5595124797381273602>

We are excited to continue capacity-building efforts in Oregon. Thank you for your efforts to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and work in their communities.

~ Acacia