

1-8-18

**To: ODDS, VR and Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Lilia Teninty, ODDS Director; Trina M. Lee, VR Director; and Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: Employment First: Response to recent DOJ actions**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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Some of you may have heard about the recent announcement from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the removal of several technical assistance and guidance documents, including those related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Olmstead. [https://www.ada.gov/ta\\_withdrawn.html](https://www.ada.gov/ta_withdrawn.html)

For those who haven't heard, the 25 revoked documents include ADA-related items dating as far back as 1995 offering guidance on everything from service animals to accessible building practices as well as a 2016 letter on employment of people with disabilities.

We know this brings up questions regarding Oregon's Employment First Policy, supported employment and Lane v. Brown.

Representing leadership from Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and Employment First, we want to emphasize that this decision does not change Oregon's commitment to community employment. From a state perspective, we are committed to supported employment and services that support a person to be as independent and integrated into their community as possible. On a federal level, Oregon must still comply with Home and Community Based Services regulation, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Lane v. Brown Settlement Agreement. Changes in federal rule do not change the settlement agreement, which is legally binding.

Please continue to do the good work that you are doing as we continue to increase community job outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

~ Lilia, Trina, and Acacia