

6-23-17

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: Employment First: Minimum Wage Increase and Benefits Planning**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

[Like Us](#) on Facebook!

Some of you may have heard about visits that Oregon's Vocational Rehabilitation program is conducting statewide with individuals who are paid less than the federal minimum wage. This message is to give more information about this process.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires that VR annually provide career counseling services to those they know are making less than federal minimum wage. Those meetings are currently happening.

This conversation is designed to help each person make an informed choice about their employment options.

The new WIOA regulations require documentation of the individual's choice. Providers that hold special subminimum wage certificates will receive a copy of the documentation as proof of compliance with these new requirements.

The report may be useful for Personal Agents/Service Coordinators to help align with an individual's Career Development Plan. Personal Agents and Service Coordinators can follow up with the provider or VR to get additional details.

Individuals are given a brochure from VR and from the Client Assistance Program (CAP), which is the formal program that may address complaints and grievances about VR services.

Attached to this message you will find two documents: one is a Fact Sheet from the U.S. Department of Labor about this requirement and the other is a one-page description of Oregon VR's Subminimum Wage Project.

If you have questions, contact Ann Balzell, VR staff for this project, at:

[ann.balzell@state.or.us](mailto:ann.balzell@state.or.us)

~ Acacia