

**Q: What happens if the person is enrolled in project search and is not eligible for ODDS services?**

A: The guidance has been updated to clarify that the person must be determined eligible for both ODDS and VR services before service begins.

**Q: What is the role of the state coordinators?**

A: Oregon Project Search Coordinators:

- Assure statewide coordination of Project Search programs in Oregon that receive funding through VR and ODDS services.
- Responsibilities include but are not limited to the facilitation of technical assistance and training, quality assurance, facilitating the process for reviewing and approving applications, etc.

**Q: Will parents, participants, providers, or representatives from case management entities be represented on the steering committee?**

A: The State Coordinators will establish regular meetings for stakeholder engagement, feedback, and updates.

**Q: How will Oregon Project Search ensure providers deliver services that are equitable and placements are integrated?**

A: This will be part of the program application and also reviewed as part of the annual fidelity checklist. Technical assistance will be available as programs are developed to ensure work experiences are integrated.

**Q: Please clarify the provider process and financial capacity information needed in the application.**

A: Additional information has been added to the vendor guidelines for application to become a Project Search provider. If a providers needs more information, please contact the Project Search State Coordinators.

**Q: The application requires an experienced employment program manager. It is difficult to recruit someone with experience managing an employment program. How much and what specific experience are you going to require.**

A: The guidance has been updated to describe the responsibilities of an experienced employment program manager who will have oversight over the program. If the manager does not have experience required, then they must be closely supervised by someone who has the experience.

**Q: What is the reasoning for requiring a provider to meet needs in rural areas? What if a provider does not?**

A: The intent is to ensure geographic representation. The provider application must describe the areas it will serve. Oregon's Project SEARCH Steering Committee will give greater weight to providers serving areas that are underserved. This is only one factor

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that will be taken into consideration for a project search application. It is not the sole factor for rewarding Project Search agreements.

**Q: What is the purpose of the probationary year?**

A: This is to ensure the provider will meet requirements and expectations.

**Q: Data reporting: What additional data will you require Project Search programs to report to the steering committee that is not already reported to Project Search national and directly to the payers?**

A: The data that will be requested is in the fidelity checklist.

**Q: Will direct permanent placements at the host site be paid for as job development?**

A: Yes. Each position will be reviewed to ensure it meets VR requirements for job development.

**Q: Will the VR rates go up?**

A: ODDS and VR are looking into increased rates.

**Q: The provider application should be available in different languages**

A: The Oregon PROJECT Search team will work to make the application available in different languages.