

Comment: Will job coaching be based on the number of hours the person works?

Response: The agency rate for job coaching for self-employment will be based on the number of hours the person works.

Comment: Will the weekly cap for job coaching for self-employment be 40 hours like regular job coaching?

Response: Yes

Comment: Who supports the person to apply for licenses and filings with the secretary of state and IRS tax records?

Response: The VR Counselor will initially support the person to identify who will support them with all the things needed to establish and maintain a business. The case manager and ISP team can support the person to identify supports if someone is no longer available and support roles need to be updated.

Comment: The case manager is expected to review business records annually to make sure the person is earning minimum wage or better. This seems beyond the skill set of a case manager.

Response: The purpose of this is to ensure the needed supports are in place. If needed, the person's employment supports can walk the case manager through their documentation. If needed, case manager may also seek technical assistance and support from ODDS regional employment specialists.

Comment: Who supports the person to write their business plan?

Response: The VR counselor or an outside business consultant identified by VR.

Comment: Who decides what is an essential function?

Response: The VR counselor will review with the person and ISP team to ensure a person is working essential functions of the business before successfully closing the person through VR. ODDS will also do an initial review of self-employment to ensure the person is completing essential functions of the business. This approval will be based on the request submitted by the case manager.

Comment: Who funds business expenses associated with starting a business?

Response: In the development of a business plan for self-employment, the person works with VR to identify sources of funding. ODDS funding cannot be used for operational expenses of the business.

Comment: ODDS approval should be required.

Response: Guidance has been updated to clarify that ODDS approval is required.

Comment: Can the language be updated to “they/their” to be more inclusive.

Response: This feedback has been incorporated.

Comment: Will the type of job coaching follow what is outlined in the current expenditure guidelines, meaning initial job coaching for the first 6 months and then ongoing for next 18 months (totaling 24 months)?

Response: The initial job coaching rate is available for the first 6 months of job coaching. The ongoing job coaching rate is available for the subsequent 18 months. The availability of the ODDS initial and ongoing job coaching rates are reduced by the amount of time the individual utilizes VR job coaching.

If the person needs additional support that would be better classified by a different phase of job coaching, please work with the person's Case Manager to request an exception to enter an earlier stage of job coaching.