



**Department of
Developmental
Disabilities**

PRE-VOCATIONAL AND GROUP EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS PROPOSAL

Overview

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DODD Pre-Vocational and Group Employment Supports Proposal, December 2023

Level-set:

Our main goal is developing a successful pathway to Community Integrated Employment (CIE) for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio, while ensuring quality non-work services and vocational possibilities for people not interested in CIE.

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To that end, the Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services Work Group convened from January 2020 to May 2021 with the purpose of improving adult day support services, transportation services, and strengthening competitive, integrated employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities throughout Ohio.

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Since the proposal was enacted in 2021:

- Creation of a new self-directed transportation service.
- Collaboration with system finance and rate experts, along with other state agencies and stakeholders to make necessary changes to the financial system.
- Historical investments made to Home and Community-Based Services (HBCS) rates that support DSPs, which are the largest in the history of Ohio's DD system. Employment and day services were included.
- Development of statewide training specific to the transition from school to adulthood, all adult day array services including transportation, and supportive technology

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Since the proposal was enacted in 2021:

- Research of how to use services available in the traditional Medicaid service plan to bridge potential gaps in the waiver service delivery system
- Currently implementing an ADS Quality Pilot Program for 100 providers to build capacity to provide quality non-work supports with a focus on people with significant needs.
- Working with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities on a 5-year grant project, Works4Me, that supports people who are currently in subminimum wage employment to move to CIE.
- Establishing an Employment Services Readiness Program to fund training and capacity-building opportunities for HCBS Waiver Employment Services providers.
- Amending HCBS Waiver Individual Employment Services and Career Planning Services to include quality-incentive payments.
- Developing new NMT rates specific to CIE for waiver amendment

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Training and Technical Assistance is provided via the [DODD Regional Support Team](#).

The lead teams in collaboration are Community Life Engagement and Medicaid Development and Administration.

Vocational Habilitation

Accept The Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST) Framework as the way forward. Waiver Category- Pre-vocational services.

Develop new HCBS waiver service. The new service is Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST).

Vocational Habilitation

The BEST service will include two tiered requirements for service delivery (from 5123-9-42):

- *Tier 1 is available to an individual seeking prevocational services to advance on the path to competitive integrated employment and achieve competitive integrated employment.*
- *Tier 2 is available only to an individual who, on the day immediately prior to the effective date of this rule, was at least fifty years of age and authorized to receive vocational habilitation.*

For more specific information concerning the tiers, please reference 5123-9-42.

Vocational Habilitation

- The plan must identify the person's outcomes, the general skills intended to be obtained through Basic Employment Skills Training Service, where those services will be delivered, and when they will be reviewed.
- Basic Employment Skills Training may only be authorized for people who express an interest in obtaining competitive, integrated employment.

Vocational Habilitation

Language from revised rule (5123-9-42):

- *A service and support administrator may initially authorize tier I basic employment skills training for a maximum period of two years. Beyond two years, a service and support administrator may authorize up to two one-year extensions. Beyond four years, the department will monitor authorization of tier I basic employment skills training to ensure the service is being authorized and delivered in accordance with this rule. Monitoring by the department will consist of data review, technical assistance to providers and county boards, and routine or special compliance reviews, as warranted.*

There will be no limit to the number of available extensions.

Vocational Habilitation

Rates/Cost of Doing Business Categories continue as identified in rule but discontinue the Vocational Habilitation Provided In-Person in an Integrated Community Setting for a Group of Four or Fewer Individuals (Effective when Vocational Habilitation moves to BEST).

Proposal is for this to end on Vocational Habilitation and move to GES.

Employment First Rule continues as written, no changes.

Group Employment Supports

Maintain Group Employment Supports as a supported employment service with no time limits. Waiver Category- Supported Employment.

Group Employment Supports

Rates/Cost of Doing Business Categories continue as identified in rule but modify group ratios to support groups of 1:2 for Acuity C and 1:4 for acuities A/B.

Group Employment Supports

Change in the GES rule: The expected outcome of group employment support is paid employment *and/or* work experience leading to further career development.

Employment First Rule continues as written, no changes.

QUESTIONS?

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