

DESCRIPTION OF QUALITY, SCOPE, AND EXTENT OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

In Wisconsin, supported employment is funded by primarily three sources; Title VI, Title IB and long-term funding directed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Service's, Division of Long Term Care (DHS/DLTC) and managed locally by county human service agencies or regional managed care organizations. To a much lesser extent, Social Security PASS plans have been used to maintain a small number of individuals in long-term supported employment. We also have some instances of private payment for Supported Employment long-term support. All of these dollars enhance the quality, scope, and extent of services proposed under the Title VI plan.

The QUALITY of the supported employment program under Title VI includes the following components:

1. Use of State staff to provide coordination, guidance, and consultation to counselors developing and implementing supported employment individualized plans for employment under Title VI or Title I. Training is provided for both providers and DSU staff statewide on the technical specifications for supported employment service agreements.
2. WDVR provides training to all staff through annual conferences. WDVR staff are also involved with the planning and provision of supported employment training in cooperation with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and the joint Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association (WRA)/Rehabilitation for Wisconsin (RFW) annual Rehabilitation and Transition Conference.
3. The DSU's technical specifications for Supported Employment include stronger outcome measures and implementation of consistent statewide payment rates for supported employment services in Wisconsin.
4. A guidance piece is available to WDVR staff to assist in the use of supported employment services. This piece was designed to provide best practice suggestions and answer common questions.
5. WDVR is scheduled to provide funding for intensive supported employment training for over 75 individuals statewide through the Wisconsin chapter of Association of Person's in Supported Employment (APSE) in 2009-2010.

The SCOPE and EXTENT of supported employment is limited by the lack of availability of extended services funding for ongoing vocational support. The expansion of these extended services is dependent on; (1) the capacity of the long-term support system to develop/redirect funds to supported employment and (2) the ability of DSU staff to identify and use other extended support resources such as Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), Impairment Related Work Expenditures (IRWE), family support, employer support, natural supports, etc.

The Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) for consumers who select supported employment must identify the source of extended supports or, if the source of extended services cannot be identified at the time of implementation of the plan, the IPE must identify the services, activities and/or progress measures designed to identify the nature, type, scope, requirements and source of extended services in a manner consistent with the Act and its implementing regulations. The DSU does not provide extended services as defined in 361.5(b)(20). Supported employment services are provided only to those individuals with the most significant disabilities and who have an identified likely source of long term support.

Consumers receiving supported employment services from the DSU as part of their approved IPE will be transitioned to extended services as soon as the IPE services are completed and the consumer has achieved the employment outcome described in the IPE or after a period of time not to exceed 18 months whichever comes first. The DSU may extend supported employment services beyond 18 months under special circumstance if the eligible individual and the VR counselor agree to extend the time to achieve the employment outcome identified in the IPE (34 CFR, Part 361.5(b)(i))

During FFY 2009 WDVR provided a leadership role on the “Managed Care and Employment Task Force”, established by the Department of Health Services, Division of Long Term Care (DHS/DLTC) as well as in WDVR’s interagency Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and DHS/DLTC. During FFY10, DVR will use the recommendations made by the Managed Care and Employment Task force for planning and implementation of statewide services in supported employment. Also during FFY10, the interagency Memorandum of Agreement with DPI and DHS/DLTC remains in place and will continue to inform efforts to include high school transition students in supported employment. Both the DHS Task Force and WDVR’s interagency MOU are focused on developing coordinated services and funding mechanisms, within the context of the Family Care Managed Care service delivery system. In the next five years it is anticipated that extended employment supports for students in transition and adult consumers will be delivered on a statewide basis through the Family Care service delivery system. A successful deployment of Family Care services throughout Wisconsin will mean that WDVR consumers who desire community employment and are in need of extended employment supports will be able to access those supports without a wait for extended employment support funding.

The DSU will continue to seek opportunities for collaboration with the new regional managed care organizations as they are developed under the Family Care initiative and expanded statewide.