

DVR Service Provider Qualification Requirements

Overview

DVR is establishing minimum qualification requirements for Service Providers delivering key employment services. These requirements ensure Service Providers have foundational training in disability, employment, and person-centered practices – supporting consistent, high-quality services statewide.

Why Qualification Requirements?

- Align with national best practices
- Promote equity and service quality across regions
- Ensure providers can meet diverse consumer needs
- Clarify DVR's expectations for service delivery partners

Qualification Pathways

Service Providers must meet the qualification requirements through one of three pathways:

1. ACRE-Approved Training
 - Completed training from an ACRE-approved provider
 - Covers person-centered planning, job development, employment supports, etc.
2. CESP Certification
 - Active Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) credential from APSE
 - Nationally recognized, exam-based certification demonstrating employment service competency
3. Alternative Training Plan
 - Internal or external training aligned with DVR's core competency expectations
 - Requires DVR preapproval and documentation of curriculum and outcomes
 - Offers flexibility while maintaining quality standards

Timeline and Implementation

All Service Providers delivering covered services must meet the qualification requirements by July 1, 2027.

- Existing Service Provider staff are expected to meet the requirements by this date.
- New hires will have nine months from their hire date to complete the requirements.
- There is no recency requirement for ACRE-approved training or active CESP certification.
- Internal or external training must be approved through the Alternative Training Plan process.
- DVR encourages continued professional development. While a formal continuing education framework is not being implemented at this time, DVR may explore future opportunities to promote ongoing training and skill development.

Key Points

- Only one qualification pathway is required – not all three.
- Providers must maintain documentation of completed training or certification.
These requirements apply to the following statewide services:

• Customized Employment	• Job Preparation, Development, Hire and Retention
• Internship/Temporary Work (ITW)	• Student Work-Based Learning Services
• Job and Task Analysis & Systematic Instruction	• Supported Employment

Note: Qualification requirements for Individual Placement and Support (IPS), Vocational Evaluation (VE), and Work Incentive Benefits Services (WIBS) are not changing at this time.