

Connecticut General Assembly



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August 7, 2015

You asked several questions related to the pending Amendment to Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waivers I and II.

1. What does the amendment do?

Answer: The amendment makes changes under two service categories, Cognitive Behavioral Service and Prevocational Service.

- Cognitive Behavioral Service - The amendment establishes distinct reimbursement rates for face-to-face and non-face-to-face services under the ABI Waivers I and II. Face-to-face services must be provided in-person (in the same room) and include the provider, participant and/or supporters. Non-face-to-face services could include time spent developing the cognitive behavioral plan and records review as well as a phone call, FaceTime or Skype interaction among providers, participants and/or supporters.
- Prevocational Service - The amendment establishes a time limit for this service of up to 40 hours per week for up to two-years under ABI Waiver I. The two-year time limit may be exceeded if there is a compelling justification. Prevocational services are intended to develop and teach general skills including the ability to communicate effectively in the workplace, follow directions, dress appropriately, and develop problem solving and workplace safety skills.

The amendment also seeks to remove self-directed Personal Care Assistant (PCA) as a waiver service since the service will be available under the Medicaid state plan under the 1915k option.

2. Why is the waiver being amended?

Answer: Based on 2011 guidance (see letter below) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), prevocational services must be time limited and should not be considered habilitation services.

Additionally, the waiver is being amended to recognize the difference between the provision of services that are face-to-face and non-face-to-face services, via new billing rates.

3. How does this change the provision or billing of services for my provider?

Answer: Under cognitive behavioral services, the amendment establishes new rates for face-to-face (in-person) and non-face-to-face services. Currently, such services are billed at a rate of \$82.40 per hour. Under the amendment, face-to-face services will be billed by the hour at a rate of \$105. Non-face-to-face services will be billed by the quarter hour at a rate of \$17 per 15 minutes, or \$68 per hour. (Note: The face-to-face rate applies to in-person team meetings where the participant may not be present.)

4. How do these changes affect recipients? Are there changes to available services?

Answer:

- (1) The amendment includes a new requirement that providers meet with participants in-person a minimum of once per quarter; this could lead to more face-to-face interaction with providers for recipients who are currently receiving cognitive behavioral services less frequently; and
- (2) Recipients who have reached the two year limit for prevocational services established under the amendment, will discontinue such services (unless there is a strong justification to continue), and if appropriate, continue care through another waiver service identified in the person-centered planning process.

Background: ABI Waiver I and II Summary

The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) waivers use person-centered planning to provide a range of non-medical, home and community based services. The goal is to maintain adults who have an acquired brain injury (not a developmental or degenerative disorder) in the community. Without these services, these individuals would otherwise require placement in one of four types of institutional settings: Nursing Facility (NF), ABI Nursing Facility (ABI/NF), Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), or Chronic Disease Hospital (CDH). Both waivers are considered 1915(c) waivers, which allow for the provision of long term care services in home and community based settings under the Medicaid Program.

For additional information on ABI Waivers, and other waivers the Department of Social Services administers please visit:

http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/pdfs/overview_of_connecticut_medicaid_waiver_programs_2_6_15.pdf



Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification

CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: September 16, 2011

FROM: Cindy Mann, JD
Director
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification (CMCS)

SUBJECT: Updates to the §1915 (c) Waiver Instructions and Technical Guide regarding employment and employment related services

This Informational Bulletin is intended to provide clarification of existing CMS guidance on development and implementation of §1915 (c) Waivers regarding employment and employment related services. Specifically, this letter provides updates to several sections of the current Waiver Technical Guide Version 3.5, which was released in January of 2008, in advance of a future release of Technical Guide Version 3.6.

This guidance does not constitute new policy, but rather highlights the opportunities available to use waiver supports to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities within current policy. Further, it underscores CMS's commitment to the importance of work for waiver participants and provides further clarification of CMS guidance regarding several core service definitions.

While States have the flexibility to craft their own service definitions and modify CMS core service definitions, many States rely on CMS language for their waiver core service definitions. We hope that by emphasizing the importance of employment in the lives of people with disabilities, updating some of our core service definitions, and adding several new core service definitions to better reflect best and promising practices that it will support States' efforts to increase employment opportunities and meaningful community integration for waiver participants.

The major changes in the Instructions and Technical Guide are summarized below:

- Highlights the importance of competitive work for people with and without disabilities and CMS's goal to promote integrated employment options through the waiver program
- Acknowledges best and promising practices in employment support, including self direction and peer support options for employment support
- Clarifies that Ticket to Work Outcome and Milestone payments are not in conflict with payment for Medicaid services rendered because both Ticket to Work and Milestone payments are made for an outcome, not service delivery
- Adds a new core service definition- by splitting what had previously been supported employment into two definitions- individual and small group supported employment
- Includes a new service definition for career planning, that may be separate or rolled into the other employment related service definitions

- Emphasizes the critical role of person centered planning in achieving employment outcomes
- Modifies both the prevocational services and supported employment definitions to clarify that volunteer work and other activities that are not paid, integrated community employment are appropriately described in pre-vocational, not supported employment services
- Explains that pre-vocational services are not an end point, but a time limited (although no specific limit is given) service for the purpose of helping someone obtain competitive employment

I hope that you will find this information helpful. States and other interested parties may also find information contained in the attachments at www.hcbswaivers.net. If you have any additional questions about this guidance, please contact Ms. Nancy Kirchner, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Long Term Services and Supports at 410-786-8641 or nancy.kirchner@cms.hhs.gov.

Attachments (2):

- 1 - Revisions to the Instructions and Technical Guide for §1915 (c) Waivers - Supported Employment and Prevocational Services
- 2 - Revisions to the Core Service Definitions for Employment and Employment related services in the Instructions and Technical Guide for §1915 (c) Waivers

Attachment 1

Revisions to the Instructions and Technical Guide for §1915 (c) Waivers for Supported Employment and Prevocational Services

Work is a fundamental part of adult life for people with and without disabilities. It provides a sense of purpose, shaping who we are and how we fit into our community. Meaningful work has also been associated with positive physical and mental health benefits and is a part of building a healthy lifestyle as a contributing member of society. Because it is so essential to people's economic self sufficiency, as well as self esteem and well being, people with disabilities and older adults with chronic conditions who want to work should be provided the opportunity and support to work competitively within the general workforce in their pursuit of health, wealth and happiness. All individuals, regardless of disability and age, can work – and work optimally with opportunity, training, and support that build on each person's strengths and interests. Individually tailored and preference based job development, training, and support should recognize each person's employability and potential contributions to the labor market.

Peer support is a powerful best practice model for helping support people to be successful in the world of employment. Most specifically for people with mental illness, the evidenced based practice of peer support has been a critical component of successful community living, including employment. Additionally, various types of employment and employment related supports may be provided by consumer operated service programs, independent nonprofit organizations that have a majority consumer board of directors. There is broader applicability for peer support and self advocacy for other disability population groups to ease the transition into community living and/or to develop stronger ties in those communities through the support and guidance from others who have navigated those situations and can now mentor others and offer mutual support. States may wish to consider provider qualifications for employment supports that draw on peer support models. Additional information concerning peer support services is contained in the August 15, 2007 State Medicaid Director letter #07-011 at <http://www.cms.gov/SMDL/downloads/SMD081507A.pdf>.

Self directed service delivery models can also be used to provide employment supports. In a self-directed model, individuals may hire their own job coaches and employment support staff, rather than relying exclusively on agency based staffing models. This may be particularly useful as individuals seek to expand the pool of people who can provide employment supports and services to include friends, family members, co-workers and other community members that do not view themselves as part of the traditional Medicaid provider employment supports workforce.

Customized employment is another approach to supported employment. Customized employment means individualizing the employment relationship between employees and employers in ways that meet the needs of both. It is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs, and interests of the person with a disability, and is also designed to meet the specific needs of the employer. It may include employment developed through job carving, self-employment or entrepreneurial initiatives, or other job development or restructuring strategies that result in job responsibilities being customized and individually negotiated to fit the needs of individuals with a disability. Customized employment assumes the provision of reasonable accommodations and

supports necessary for the individual to perform the functions of a job that is individually negotiated and developed. (Federal Register, June 26, 2002, Vol. 67. No. 123 pp 43154 -43149).

Co-worker models of support to deliver on the job supports are effective service delivery methods that are often less expensive to provide and less intrusive to the flow of a business, helping the employee with a disability not just learn the task based elements of the job, but also the cultural norms and relationships within that job setting. Co-worker models of support rely on regular employees within the work setting who provide on the job training and ongoing support to the waiver participant that is beyond what is typically provided as part of supervision or training to employees. Co-worker supports may be delivered on a volunteer basis or paid through a stipend or other statewide payment methodology and unit cost as described in the waiver application Appendices I and J. Importantly, payment for co-worker supports is not payment to the employer for hiring the individual. Instead, it is encouraging the forging of natural work relationships with individuals already present and participating in the work environment. These models are not intended to replace the support provider's work, rather, it would be an additional mentoring/support role for which co-workers could receive additional compensation above what they receive in the course of their typical job responsibilities.

The Ticket to Work Program (TTW) is an employment support program offered through the Social Security Administration (SSA) which is available to SSA beneficiaries with disabilities who want to achieve and maintain their employment goals and can work in a complementary fashion with waiver services. Ticket Outcome and Milestone payments do not conflict with CMS regulatory requirements and do not constitute an overpayment of Federal dollars for services provided since payments are made for an outcome, rather than for a Medicaid service rendered. Additional information regarding the receipt of Federal funds under the SSA's Ticket to Work program is contained in the January 28, 2010 State Medicaid Director letter SMD# 10-002 at <http://www.cms.gov/SMDL/SMD/list.asp>.

Supported employment and prevocational services may be furnished as expanded habilitation services under the provisions of §1915(c)(5)(C) of the Act. They may be offered to any target group for whom the provision of these services would be beneficial in helping them to realize their goals of obtaining and maintaining community employment in the most integrated setting. As provided in Olmstead Letter #3 (included in Attachment D), the provision of these services is not limited to waiver participants with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and can be a meaningful addition to the service array for any of the regulatorily identified target groups.

It is important to note that such services may only be furnished to a waiver participant to the extent that they are not available as vocational rehabilitation services funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. When a state covers any category of supported employment services and/or prevocational services in a waiver, the waiver service definition of each service must specifically explain that the services do not include services that are available under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or, in the case of youth, under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as well as assure that such services are not available to the participant before authorizing their provision as a waiver service.

Waiver funding is not available for the provision of vocational services delivered in facility based or sheltered work settings, where individuals are supervised for the primary purpose of producing goods or performing services. The distinction between vocational and pre-vocational services is that pre-vocational services, regardless of setting, are delivered for the purpose of furthering habilitation goals *such as attendance, task completion, problem solving, interpersonal relations and safety*, as outlined in the individual's person-centered services and supports plan. Prevocational services should be designed to create a path to integrated community based employment for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities.

Although this is guidance with respect to the 1915 (c) Waiver program, we note that states have obligations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision interpreting the integration regulations of those statutes. Consistent with the *Olmstead* decision and with person centered planning principles, an individual's plan of care regarding employment services should be constructed in a manner that reflects individual choice and goals relating to employment and ensures provision of services in the most integrated setting appropriate.

Attachment 2

Revisions to the Core Service Definitions for Employment and Employment related services in the Instructions and Technical Guide for §1915 (c) Waivers

Day Habilitation

Core Service Definition:

Provision of regularly scheduled activities in a non-residential setting, separate from the participant's private residence or other residential living arrangement, such as assistance with acquisition, retention, or improvement in self-help, socialization and adaptive skills that enhance social development and develop skills in performing activities of daily living and community living. Activities and environments are designed to foster the acquisition of skills, building positive social behavior and interpersonal competence, greater independence and personal choice. Services are furnished consistent with the participant's person-centered plan. Meals provided as part of these services shall not constitute a "full nutritional regimen" (3 meals per day).

Day habilitation services focus on enabling the participant to attain or maintain his or her maximum potential and shall be coordinated with any needed therapies in the individual's person-centered services and supports plan, such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy.

Instructions

- Supplement or modify the core definition as appropriate to specify service elements/activities furnished as day habilitation under the waiver.
- Day habilitation may be furnished in any of a variety of settings in the community other than the person's private residence. Day habilitation services are not limited to fixed-site facilities. Supplement the core definition by specifying where day habilitation is furnished.
- If transportation between the participant's place of residence and the day habilitation site, or other community settings in which the service is delivered, is provided as a component part of day habilitation services and the cost of this transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of day habilitation services, the service definition must include a statement to that effect in the definition.

Guidance

- Day habilitation may not provide for the payment of services that are vocational in nature (i.e., for the primary purpose of producing goods or performing services).

- Personal care/assistance may be a component part of day habilitation services as necessary to meet the needs of a participant, but may not comprise the entirety of the service.
- Participants who receive day habilitation services may also receive educational, supported employment and prevocational services. A participant's person-centered services and supports plan may include two or more types of non-residential habilitation services. However, different types of non-residential habilitation services may not be billed during the same period of the day.
- Day habilitation services may be furnished to any individual who requires and chooses them through a person-centered planning process. Such services are not limited to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- For individuals with degenerative conditions, day habilitation may include training and supports designed to maintain skills and functioning and to prevent or slow regression, rather than acquiring new skills or improving existing skills.
- Day habilitation services may also be used to provide supported retirement activities. As some people get older they may no longer desire to work and may need supports to assist them in meaningful retirement activities in their communities. This might involve altering schedules to allow for more rest time throughout the day, support to participate in hobbies, clubs and/ or other senior related activities in their communities.
- If States wish to cover "career planning" activities they may choose to include it as a component part of day habilitation services or it may be broken out as a separate stand alone service definition.

Prevocational Services

Core Service Definition:

Services that provide learning and work experiences, including volunteer work, where the individual can develop general, non-job-task-specific strengths and skills that contribute to employability in paid employment in integrated community settings. Services are expected to occur over a defined period of time and with specific outcomes to be achieved, as determined by the individual and his/her service and supports planning team through an ongoing person-centered planning process.

Individuals receiving prevocational services must have employment-related goals in their person-centered services and supports plan; the general habilitation activities must be designed to support such employment goals. Competitive, integrated employment in the community for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities is considered to be the optimal outcome of prevocational services.

Prevocational services should enable each individual to attain the highest level of work in the most integrated setting and with the job matched to the individual's interests, strengths, priorities, abilities, and capabilities, while following applicable federal wage guidelines. Services are intended to develop and teach general skills; Examples include, but are not limited to: ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, co-workers and customers; generally accepted community workplace conduct and dress; ability to follow directions; ability to attend to tasks; workplace problem solving skills and strategies; general workplace safety and mobility training.

Participation in prevocational services is not a required pre-requisite for individual or small group supported employment services provided under the waiver. Many individuals, particularly those transitioning from school to adult activities, are likely to choose to go directly into supported employment. Similarly, the evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment for individuals with behavioral health conditions emphasizes rapid job placement in lieu of prevocational services.

Documentation is maintained that the service is not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

Instructions

- Supplement or modify the core definition as appropriate to incorporate the specific service elements furnished under the waiver.
- Prevocational services may be furnished in a variety of locations in the community and are not limited to fixed-site facilities. Specify in the service definition where these services are furnished.
- If transportation between the participant's place of residence and the prevocational service site/s is provided as a component part of prevocational services and the cost of this transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of prevocational services, the service definition must include a statement to that effect.
- Specify in the definition how the determination is made that the services furnished to the participant are prevocational rather than vocational in nature in accordance with 42 CFR §440.180(c)(2)(i).

Guidance

- Pre-vocational Services include activities that are not primarily directed at teaching skills to perform a particular job, but at underlying habilitative goals (e.g., attention span, motor skills, interpersonal relations with co-workers and supervisors) that are associated with building skills necessary to perform work and optimally to perform competitive, integrated employment. Vocational services, which are not covered through waivers, are services that teach job task specific skills required by a participant for the primary purpose of completing those tasks for a specific facility based job and are not delivered in an integrated work setting through supported employment. The distinction between vocational and pre-vocational services is that pre-vocational services, regardless of setting, are delivered for the purpose of furthering habilitation goals that will lead to greater opportunities for competitive and integrated employment and career advancement at or above minimum wage. These goals are described in the individual's person centered services and supports plan and are designed to teach skills that will lead to integrated competitive employment.
- A person receiving pre-vocational services may pursue employment opportunities at any time to enter the general work force. Pre-vocational services are intended to assist individuals to enter the general workforce.
- Individuals participating in prevocational services may be compensated in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations and the optimal outcome of the provision of prevocational services is permanent integrated employment at or above the minimum wage in the community.
- All prevocational and supported employment service options should be reviewed and considered as a component of an individual's person-centered services and supports plan no less than annually, more frequently as necessary or as requested by the individual. These services and supports should be designed to support successful employment outcomes consistent with the individual's goals.

- Personal care/assistance may be a component of prevocational services, but may not comprise the entirety of the service.
- Individuals who receive prevocational services may also receive educational, supported employment and/or day habilitation services. A participant's person-centered services and supports plan may include two or more types of non-residential habilitation services. However, different types of non-residential habilitation services may not be billed during the same period of the day.
- If States wish to cover "career planning" activities they may choose to include it as a component part of pre-vocational services or it may be broken out as a separate stand alone service definition.
- Prevocational services may include volunteer work, such as learning and training activities that prepare a person for entry into the paid workforce.
- Prevocational services may be furnished to any individual who requires and chooses them through a person-centered planning process. They are not limited to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Supported Employment -Individual Employment Support Core Service Definition

Supported Employment -Individual Employment Support services are the ongoing supports to participants who, because of their disabilities, need intensive on-going support to obtain and maintain an individual job in competitive or customized employment, or self-employment, in an integrated work setting in the general workforce for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities. The outcome of this service is sustained paid employment at or above the minimum wage in an integrated setting in the general workforce, in a job that meets personal and career goals.

Supported employment services can be provided through many different service models. Some of these models can include evidence-based supported employment for individuals with mental illness, or customized employment for individuals with significant disabilities. States may define other models of individualized supported employment that promote community inclusion and integrated employment.

Supported employment individual employment supports may also include support to establish or maintain self-employment, including home-based self-employment. Supported employment services are individualized and may include any combination of the following services: vocational/job-related discovery or assessment, person-centered employment planning, job placement, job development, negotiation with prospective employers, job analysis, job carving, training and systematic instruction, job coaching, benefits support, training and planning, transportation, asset development and career advancement services, and other workplace support services including services not specifically related to job skill training that enable the waiver participant to be successful in integrating into the job setting.

Documentation is maintained that the service is not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

Federal financial participation is not claimed for incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training expenses such as the following:

1. Incentive payments made to an employer to encourage or subsidize the employer's participation in supported employment; or
2. Payments that are passed through to users of supported employment services.

Instructions

- Supplement or modify the core definition as appropriate to incorporate the specific service elements furnished in the waiver.
- Supported employment individual employment supports is not intended for people working in mobile work crews of small groups of people with disabilities in the community. That type of work support is addressed in the core service definition for Supported Employment Small Group employment support.
- If transportation between the participant's place of residence and the employment site is a component part of supported employment individual employment supports services and the cost of this transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of supported employment individual employment supports services, the service definition must include a statement to that effect.

Guidance

- Statewide rate setting methodologies, which are further described in I-2-a of the waiver application may be used to embrace new models of support that help a person obtain and maintain integrated employment in the community. These may include co-worker support models, payments for work milestones, such as length of time on the job, number of hours the participant works, etc. Payments for work milestones are not incentive payments that are made to an employer to encourage or subsidize the employer's hiring an individual with disabilities, which is not permissible.
- Supported employment individual employment supports does not include facility based, or other similar types of vocational services furnished in specialized facilities that are not a part of the general workplace.
- In addition to the need for an appropriate job match that meets the individual's skills and interests, individuals with the most significant disabilities may also need long term employment support to successfully maintain a job due to the ongoing nature of the waiver participant's support needs, changes in life situations, or evolving and changing job responsibilities.
- All prevocational and supported employment service options should be reviewed and considered as a component of an individual's person-centered services and supports plan no less than annually, more frequently as necessary or as requested by the individual. These services and supports should be designed to support successful employment outcomes consistent with the individual's goals.
- Supported employment individual employment supports do not include volunteer work. Such volunteer learning and training activities that prepare a person for entry into the paid workforce are addressed through pre-vocational services.
- Supported employment individual employment supports do not include payment for supervision, training, support and adaptations typically available to other workers without disabilities filling similar positions in the business.
 - Supported employment individual employment supports may be provided by a co-worker or other job site personnel provided that the services that are furnished are not part of the normal duties of the co-worker, supervisor or other personnel and these individuals meet the pertinent qualifications for the providers of service.

- Personal care/assistance may be a component part of supported employment individual employment supports, but may not comprise the entirety of the service.
- Supported employment individual employment supports may include services and supports that assist the participant in achieving self-employment through the operation of a business; however, Medicaid funds may not be used to defray the expenses associated with starting up or operating a business. Assistance for self-employment may include: (a) aid to the individual in identifying potential business opportunities; (b) assistance in the development of a business plan, including potential sources of business financing and other assistance in including potential sources of business financing and other assistance in developing and launching a business; (c) identification of the supports that are necessary in order for the individual to operate the business; and (d) ongoing assistance, counseling and guidance once the business has been launched.
- Individuals receiving supported employment individual employment supports services may also receive educational, pre-vocational and/or day habilitation services and career planning services. A participant's person-centered services and supports plan may include two or more types of non-residential habilitation services. However, different types of non-residential habilitation services may not be billed during the same period of time.
- If States wish to cover "career planning" they may choose to include it as a component part of supported employment individualized employment support services or it may be broken out as a separate stand alone service definition.
- Supported employment individual employment supports may be furnished to any individual who requires and chooses them through a person-centered planning process. They are not limited to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Supported Employment - Small Group Employment Support

Core Service Definition

Supported Employment Small Group employment support are services and training activities provided in regular business, industry and community settings for groups of two (2) to eight (8) workers with disabilities. Examples include mobile crews and other business-based workgroups employing small groups of workers with disabilities in employment in the community. Supported employment small group employment support must be provided in a manner that promotes integration into the workplace and interaction between participants and people without disabilities in those workplaces. The outcome of this service is sustained paid employment and work experience leading to further career development and individual integrated community-based employment for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities. Small group employment support does not include vocational services provided in facility based work settings.

Supported employment small group employment supports may include any combination of the following services: vocational/job-related discovery or assessment, person-centered employment planning, job placement, job development, negotiation with prospective employers, job analysis, training and systematic instruction, job coaching, benefits support, training and planning transportation and career advancement services. Other workplace support services may include

services not specifically related to job skill training that enable the waiver participant to be successful in integrating into the job setting.

Documentation is maintained that the service is not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

Federal financial participation is not claimed for incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training expenses such as the following:

1. Incentive payments made to an employer to encourage or subsidize the employer's participation in supported employment services; or
2. Payments that are passed through to users of supported employment services.

Instructions

- Supplement or modify the core definition as appropriate to incorporate the specific service elements furnished in the waiver.
- If transportation between the participant's place of residence and the employment site is a component part of supported employment services small group employment support and the cost of this transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of supported employment small group employment supports services, the service definition must include a statement to that effect.

Guidance

- Supported employment small group employment support does not include vocational services provided in facility based work settings or other similar types of vocational services furnished in specialized facilities that are not a part of general community workplaces.
- Supported employment small group employment supports do not include volunteer work. Such volunteer learning and training activities that prepare a person for entry into the paid workforce are more appropriately addressed through pre-vocational services.
- Supported employment small group employment support does not include payment for supervision, training, support and adaptations typically available to other workers without disabilities filling similar positions in the business.
 - Supported employment small group employment support services may be provided by a co-worker or other job site personnel provided that the services that are furnished are not part of the normal duties of the co-worker, supervisor or other personnel and these individuals meet the pertinent qualifications for the providers of service.
- Personal care/assistance may be a component part of supported employment small group employment support services, but may not comprise the entirety of the service.
- All prevocational and supported employment service options should be reviewed and considered as a component of an individual's person-centered services and supports plan no less than annually, more frequently as necessary or as requested by the individual. These services and supports should be designed to support successful employment outcomes consistent with the individual's goals.
- Individuals receiving supported employment small group employment support services may also receive educational, prevocational and/or day habilitation services and career planning services. A participant's person-centered services and supports plan may include two or more types of non-residential habilitation services. However, different types of non-residential habilitation services may not be billed during the same period of time.

• If States wish to cover “career planning” they may choose to include it as a component part of supported employment small group employment support services or it may be broken out as a separate stand alone service definition.

• Supported employment small group employment support services may be furnished to any individual who requires and chooses them. If a state offers both supported employment- individual and small group employment support services, individuals should be provided information to make an informed decision in choosing between these services. Supported employment small group employment support services are not limited to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Career Planning

Core Service Definition

Career planning is a person-centered, comprehensive employment planning and support service that provides assistance for waiver program participants to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive employment or self-employment. It is a focused, time limited service engaging a participant in identifying a career direction and developing a plan for achieving competitive, integrated employment at or above the state’s minimum wage. The outcome of this service is documentation of the participant’s stated career objective and a career plan used to guide individual employment support.

Instructions

• Supplement or modify the core definition as appropriate to incorporate the specific service elements furnished in the waiver.

• Supplement the core service definition by specifying where in the community career planning may be furnished.

• If transportation between the participant's place of residence and the site where career planning is delivered is provided as a component part of career planning services and the cost of this transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of career planning services, the service definition must include a statement to that effect in the definition.

Guidance

• For young people with disabilities transitioning out of high school or college into adult services, it is important to have the opportunity to plan for sufficient time and experiential learning opportunities for the appropriate exploration, assessment and discovery processes to learn about career options as one first enters the general workforce.

• Individuals who receive career planning services may also receive educational, supported employment, pre-vocational and/or day habilitation services. A participant’s person-centered services and supports plan may include two or more types of non-residential habilitation services. However, different types of non-residential habilitation services may not be billed during the same period of the day.

• If a waiver participant is receiving prevocational services or day habilitation services, career planning may be used to develop experiential learning opportunities and career options consistent with the person’s skills and interests.

- If a waiver participant is employed and receiving either individual or small group supported employment services, career planning may be used to find other competitive employment more consistent with the person's skills and interests or to explore advancement opportunities in his or her chosen career.
- All prevocational and supported employment service options, including career planning, should be reviewed and considered as a component of an individual's person-centered services and supports plan no less than annually, more frequently as necessary or as requested by the individual. These services and supports should be designed to support successful employment outcomes consistent with the individual's goals.
- Career planning furnished under the waiver may not include services available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or section 602(16) and (17) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401(16 and 17)).
- Career planning may include benefits support, training and planning, as well as assessment for use of assistive technology to increase independence in the workplace.
- If a State wishes to cover "career planning" it may choose to include it as a component part of day habilitation, pre-vocational services or supported employment small group or individual employment support services or it may be broken out as a separate stand alone service definition.
- Career planning services may be furnished to any individual who requires and chooses them. They are not limited to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.