
CHAPTER 15: SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

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SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Extended services means ongoing support services and other appropriate services needed to support and maintain an individual with a most significant disability in supported employment and that are provided by a State agency, a private nonprofit organization, employer, or any other appropriate resource, after an individual has made the transition from support provided by DBVI.

Supported employment means competitive work in integrated work settings, or employment in integrated work settings in which individuals are working toward competitive work, consistent with the strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice of the individuals, for individuals with the most significant disabilities for whom competitive employment:

1. Has not traditionally occurred or has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a disability; and
2. Who, because of the nature and significance of their disabilities, need intensive supported employment services.

Supported employment services means ongoing support services and other appropriate services needed to support and maintain an individual with a most significant disability in supported employment that are provided by DBVI for a period of time not to extend beyond 18 months, unless under special circumstances the eligible individual and the rehabilitation counselor jointly agree to extend the time in order to achieve the rehabilitation objectives identified in the individualized plan for employment; and following transition, as post-employment services that are unavailable from an extended services provider and that are necessary to maintain or regain the job placement or advance in employment.

SECTION 2: GENERAL GUIDANCE

DBVI maintains a cooperative agreement with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to provide supported employment services. DVR maintains a network of supported employment providers who will provide placement services, on-the-job support and training, and support to the employer. DBVI provides DVR with a portion of its supported employment funds known as “Title VI, Part B funds” for this purpose. The agreement states that DVR will negotiate on behalf of DBVI

for the provision of extended services and long term supports and will act as a liaison between DBVI and supported employment providers.

DBVI staff, as a part of this agreement, will provide technical assistance to job developers, job coaches, tutor trainers, and employers regarding adaptive devices and techniques that relate to blindness. Additionally, DBVI will arrange for adaptive skills assessment and training (orientation and mobility and activities of daily living) and will provide any aids and appliances recommended by the Rehabilitation Technology Specialist and/or Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Rehabilitation Teacher or Low Vision Teacher.

When an individual is in need of supported employment services, a referral should be made to the Supported Employment Coordinator at DVR who will assist the individual and the DBVI counselor in choosing a provider, developing a written contract for services, and developing long term supports and follow-up services as needed.

SECTION 3: SPENDING AND RELATED GUIDELINES

The DBVI counselor, the provider, and the individual will establish work goals (type of job, number of hours/week, etc.) to be included in the individual's Individualized Plan for Employment. Transition to extended services will occur when those goals are met.

The cost of most supported employment services will be covered under the agreement described above. Cost of additional services purchased directly by DBVI shall be limited to \$3,000 per year unless an exception is granted by the Director or designee.

The spending guideline will be reviewed by DBVI every three years with input of the State Rehabilitation Council.