



## **Ohio's Vocational Habilitation Service: Information You Need to Know**

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has many service options to support people with their employment goals and adult day service needs:

- Adult Day Supports
- Vocational Habilitation
- Career Planning
- Group Employment Supports
- Individual Employment Supports
- Non-Medical Transportation

Vocational Habilitation is a service which teaches a person general work skills and is considered a temporary service. It is also commonly referred to as Voc-Hab for short.

Vocational Habilitation can help someone learn how to:

- Take care of personal care needs in a workplace (hygiene, meals, medication, etc.);
- Interact with customers, co-workers or other people in the workplace;
- Speak up for themselves at work;
- Arrange and use transportation to get to and from work.

This service is often provided in workshops or work centers but can happen anywhere, other than the person's home. Right now, people may have had support for a long time working in a workshop using the Vocational Habilitation service. The problem is the Vocational Habilitation service cannot be used for long-term job support; instead, it must be used to support someone while they are learning general work skills that will help them get a job in the community.

DODD understands that workshops and other places that offer the Vocational Habilitation service are important to the people who attend those programs and their families. We realize that people enjoy their time at the workshop because of friendships, money, skill-building, safety, and security. However, Medicaid-funded Vocational Habilitation services cannot be used in these settings to support someone's long-term job.

Anyone working must be paid according to state and federal labor laws and cannot be expected to work without compensation. There are also Medicaid rules about how Vocational Habilitation services can be used by people who are working and being paid.

- Vocational Habilitation cannot be used to pay for just supervision of someone who is working to produce goods or perform services on behalf of an employer.

- Vocational Habilitation cannot be used to help people with job-specific skills they need to do their work. Other employment services may be used for that purpose.
- People who are earning 50% or more of Ohio's minimum wage should not use Vocational Habilitation but may use other employment services to help them be successful. Guidance about this is being developed and will outline how to support people who are earning 50% or more of Ohio's minimum wage while using the Vocational Habilitation Service.

People receiving Vocational Habilitation while working at their long-term job at a workshop or work center will need to talk about their goals, outcomes and service options at their next planning meeting. The person's service and support administrator (SSA) can share information about all the available service options, or information can be found on DODD's website at the links below.

## **Vocational Habilitation Information and Resources**

### **Ohio's Adult Day Service Options**

- My Day – Easy Read Guides: <http://bit.ly/MyDayGuides>
- Information about Adult Day Service Options: <http://bit.ly/AdultServiceOptions>

### **Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Work Group**

- Workgroup Updates: <http://bit.ly/WorkGroupUpdates>
- Workgroup Members: <http://bit.ly/WorkGroupMembers>
- Workgroup Plan: <http://bit.ly/WorkGroupPlan>

### **Guidance Documents**

- June 2018 Guidance about Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services: <http://bit.ly/GuidanceJune2018>
- August 2018 Vocational Habilitation Guidance: <http://bit.ly/GuidanceAugust2018>

Currently, a group of stakeholders is meeting with DODD to review prevocational service program rules and help guide the department's efforts to clarify how Medicaid-funded Vocational Habilitation can be used and when other services might be a better fit to help someone reach their goals and outcomes.