



Talking Points

- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Work Group has worked together since August 2018 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.
- The group has agreed to the following changes to Ohio’s prevocational services. These changes are targeted for implementation in the Summer of 2020:
 - **Development of New Prevocational Service-** Ohio will develop a new pre-vocational service called Basic Employment Skills Training that will be available in the summer of 2020. This service will be required to meet all regulations related to compensation time limit, etc.
 - **24-month statewide time limit to Basic Employment Skills Training Service.** This service will be open to anyone 18 and over who is exited from school. The 24-month time limit would be a cumulative total. Yearly extensions would be available based on ISP span dates. Extensions can be approved at the local level for 3 years. Any extensions beyond the three local level extensions, will need to be approved by DODD. DODD will develop an authorization process for the extensions. There will be no limit to the number of available extensions.
 - **50% Wage Calculation-** Yearly, based on State of Ohio minimum wage, and BLS annual # of the average Americans hours worked per week. Employment services providers would be required to add annual wage earnings to the annual written progress report submitted to SSA’s. Written progress reports are a planning tool to aide a person’s progression on the path to community employment
 - At the time the Basic Employment Skills Training Service is made available there will no new entries into the Vocational Habilitation Service. Individuals who are 50 and over will be able to stay in the vocational habilitation service and maintain

services, as they know them today. Individuals under 50 will need to transition to the basic employment skills training service if they need continued prevocational employment training.

- It is important to note that this does leave Ohio at a potential risk because Medicaid does not fund a service to support people in a sheltered work setting to produce a good or provide a service with no end. We do feel we can justify our efforts to right size the vocational habilitation service for 18-49 year olds. We estimate these changes will occur in the summer of 2020.
- **Increase community based prevocational services-** 2019 (gather baseline data), 2020-2024 (set yearly targets to increase community based prevocational services)
- **Identify available funding to provide technical assistance and training to sheltered workshops who are interested in being only an employer for individuals with disabilities. This TA would focus on business practices to discontinue being a vocational habilitation provider.**

DODD is developing a team to implement the changes required to move the above items into waiver amendments and rules by the summer of 2020. It is important to note that there could be potential changes to the framework, as DODD goes through the development of waiver amendments and rules.