

## Proposed prior authorization criteria/process for Vocational Habilitation

Vocational Habilitation may be authorized for an individual for more than 24 months when the following conditions are met:

- The person's plan has an outcome of obtaining competitive, integrated employment.
- The person's plan specifies the general skills intended to be obtained through Vocational Habilitation in order to obtain competitive, integrated employment.
- The provider's documentation reflects ongoing progress with the objectives specified in the plan.
- An employment plan has been developed by a provider, other than the person's current Vocational Habilitation provider, that identifies a need for additional prevocational services (OR require the person have used the employment planning service or one of the following: Career Discovery, Career Exploration, Job Development, Self-employment Launch, or Situational Observation and Assessment service)
- The person receiving Vocational Habilitation is earning less than 50% of Ohio's minimum wage when analyzing annualized earnings.

County boards will authorize Vocational Habilitation in the Medicaid Services System (MSS). Beginning 7/1/20, MSS will track the number of months (cumulative) in which any amount of Vocational Habilitation is authorized. The county board will receive an alert when the person reaches the 20<sup>th</sup> month of Vocational Habilitation authorization. The alert will indicate that the person has 4 remaining months in which Vocational Habilitation may be authorized without seeking prior authorization from DODD.

If the team determines the person meets the criteria specified above and will require a Vocational Habilitation authorization beyond 24 months, the county board will enter the proposed extended authorization in MSS and will respond to the following questions for review by DODD:

1. What supports have been provided through Vocational Habilitation to support the person to build general work skills to move along the path to competitive, integrated employment? (open text?)
2. What additional or different supports will be provided through the extended Vocational Habilitation services to help the person build general work skills and advance toward obtaining competitive, integrated employment? (open text?)
3. What Career Planning services has the person used? (Drop-down to include "none")

DODD will review the requested authorization and additional information entered in MSS by the county board and will also review data in the Outcome Tracking System to see if the person is earning more than 50% of Ohio's minimum wage. DODD will approve the requested authorization in MSS if:

- The county board has described existing supports provided through Vocational Habilitation in response to question 1;
- The county board has described the intended benefit of extended Vocational Habilitation in response to question 2 services;
- The person has received at least one Career Planning service; and

- The Outcome Tracking System reflects the person is earning less than 50% of Ohio's minimum wage and is Place 1,2, or 3 on the Path to Community Employment

Vocational Habilitation services may be extended for 12 months based on responses to the questions above and verification from the Outcome Tracking System that the individuals is not earning at least 50% of Ohio's minimum wage and the person is Place 1,2, or 3 on the Path to Community Employment.

Additional extensions may be requested for future spans if the team determines the person continues to meet the authorization criteria specified above and the authorization is approved by DODD.