



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Center Memo 11-04

To: Private Providers of Day Services Under Purchase of Services Contracts

From: Joseph Drexler
Operations Center Director

Cc: Peter O'Meara, Commissioner, Kathryn du Pree, Deputy Commissioner, Vincent O'Connell, Fritz Gorst, John Houchin, Mary McKay, CCPA, CT Non Profits, ARC/CT

Date: November 30, 2010

RE: Group Employment Services and Day Service Options Under the Purchase of Services Contract

In discussions with providers of vocational services, regarding the transition of people from Group Supported Employment or Day Support Options to Individual Supported Employment an issue has arisen. Since the Group Supported Employment or Day Support Options service is paid as an all inclusive per diem rate, an agency cannot bill for additional ISE services provided on the same day as Group Supported Employment or Day Support Option.

Helping people become competitively employed is a priority of DDS. DDS is working collaboratively with providers to promote real work for real pay for the individuals we support.

To both support providers' efforts in this area and avoid billing issues, DDS will review proposals to transitions current Group Supported Employment or Day Support Option participants to competitive employment situations for potential one time funding.

The time spent away from the regular group activities on career development, job search, interview, etc. will be funded as enhanced staffing beyond their normal group funding. The enhanced staffing will be paid at a rate of \$42.00 an hour for the face to face time spent on activities related to obtaining a competitive job, in addition to the normal group per diem. However, the agency must make available to the participant a full 5 ½ hour day of service, including lunch, in order to bill the per diem rate. The day of service can include the group activities of the respective service and/or the activities relating to the attainment of a competitive job.

The number of enhanced staffing hours should be authorized in the one time authorization and the period of this activity should typically be three months and may not exceed 6 months. However, upon obtaining a competitive job, one time funding for initial intensive training may be requested, if necessary.

Additionally the region may fund up to 40 hours of wages for a person in group if part of a “working interview”. A “working interview” is defined as when a person works with an employer to demonstrate her/his skills and competencies and there is the potential to obtain a competitive job. The provider will be paid \$9.00 for each hour of the working interview to cover costs of paying the individual his or her wages for the working interview.

Through these activities we will both strengthen our commitment to real work for real pay and remove system barriers that may have impeded provider efforts in this area.

This approach does not preclude the provision of both Supported Employment Individual services and Group Supported Employment or Day Support Options if both services are authorized and they are not billed on the same day.

Please note that this does not apply to Individual Budgets. Hourly billing should be divided between Supported Employment Individual and the other day services, as appropriate.

Key aspects of this initiative

Enhanced staff supports to obtain competitive work

- Duration of funding should be 3 months with a maximum of 6 months
- Hourly rate for additional face to face \$42.00
- The per diem may also be billed if a full day of supports is offered the individual
- Up to 40 hours of pre-employment wages may be funded up to \$9.00 per hour. The person must be paid minimum wage.
- Does not apply to Individual Budgets