Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

VR Fee Schedule Update 2022

Summary of Proposed Changes

Remote Service provisions have moved from a temporary allowance to an ongoing modality at the same rates as in-person services.

Bridge Support Services have been developed for the VR Fee Schedule to include short-term activities such as assisting participants with obtaining or replacing ID, setting up a bank account, obtaining interview or work clothing, and connecting with resources in the community (e.g. accessing childcare, addressing homelessness) to address significant barriers to employment.

Updated language allows for the **expanded use of Intakes.**

Language has been added to note that providers approved to deliver **Supported Employment – Job Development** must offer and be able to provide ongoing support after OOD case closure to comply with this service delivery model.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) are able to receive corresponding Intake and Coordination services, combined into one **Pre-ETS Coordination** service for ease of authorization and billing. Participants who receive the Pre-ETS Coordination service are eligible to receive an Intake later in their case in conjunction with other services.

The base rate for **Pre-Employment Transition Services** is being increased by 8%. Additional language notes that hours may be authorized beyond the initial recommended hours based on individual need.

Summer Youth Services have moved away from the Summer Youth Career Exploration service and OOD has added another "level" of Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) to allow for a 10-12 hour a week work experience as another option for students. Students who receive this "Level 1" SYWE are able to later participate in the more traditional "Level 2" SYWE for 18-20 hours a week, as needed.

The Work Incentives Planning service rate has been increased from $343 to $471 to reflect the complexities of this service and the qualifications and skills of the staff providing this service. This increase is a 37% increase in the flat fee.

OOD has expanded the cancellation window for **American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting** from 4 to 24 hours to better align with industry standards.

OOD has added a **shift differential for ASL Interpreting** that matches the OTJS shift differential.

OOD is adding the credentials of Optometrist and JAWS certification (e.g., Freedom Scientific) to **approved credentialed rates.**

OOD has created a **Critical Need Rate** of $100 that can be authorized in addition to SAM rates for providing services to participants from a list of underserved counties. OOD will determine what counties/services qualify for the Critical Need Rate.

OOD is including a 2.37% **overall rate increase**, in addition to other updates and increases previously noted. Based on feedback, providers generally preferred using an established ECI rate increase over the cost reporting process. This ECI reference point is used in conjunction with OOD's overall budget allowances. This would be an estimated additional $1.49 million in service investment per year.

The **Start Up** service definition is expanding to allow for support beyond the initial setup.

OOD has added **Self-Employment** services to the VR Fee Schedule with standardized rates, including benchmarked rates to allow for payment when the entire service is not completed.

OOD is allowing **texting** to be utilized as part of the OTJS service and billed in line with current accommodation allowances (5 texts equal to 1 UOS). OOD will also allow texting to be utilized during Tier III services to make the required interactive contacts to meet that service goal.

Some **technical guidance** from the Provider Manual has been folded into the VR Fee Schedule.

Minor language updates include an emphasis on competitive integrated employment, changed his/her to "their," removed the spelling of numbers for numbers 10 and greater, changed VR Counselor to VR Staff, and edited Provider and Participant to lowercase.

Font sizes and formatting has been updated in areas for more consistency, including moving some existing language under Requirements bullet points.

Language has been added to note that OOD owns the **service reports** it purchases.

Electronic submission of invoices language has been updated to align with the **Aware Vendor Portal** process and add invoicing timeline to services that now have a report for premiums.