

Quality, Scope, and Extent of Supported Employment Services [Attachment 6.3]

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) will provide and improve the quality of supported employment services through the Title VI, Part B Program, and the Title I, Vocational Rehabilitation Program to individuals with the most significant disabilities through the use of fee-for-service reimbursement, or LRS funded grants and/or contracts awarded to supported employment providers.

The goals of the program will be:

1. To fund the vendors necessary to provide supported employment services to eligible consumers. These vendors will provide services to a diverse population of individuals with significant disabilities.
2. To ensure the quality of supported employment services provided to eligible consumers by monitoring the vendors. The monitoring will include an evaluation of the provision of services according to the most recent technology in supported employment and to identify training and technical assistance needed.
3. Provide technical assistance and training opportunities to state office and field office staff to improve the supported employment service delivery system. The field staff will receive supported employment training directed at case management and quality supported employment services.
4. Establish a new focus group consisting of elected community rehabilitation program representatives from each region that will meet (regularly/periodically) to discuss supported employment issues and concerns, determine if changes are needed in LRS policy and/or procedures.
6. To work cooperatively with other agencies (public and private), employers and advocates to assist in developing employment opportunities and multiple options for extended services to ensure more successful supported employment outcomes.
7. To coordinate with Region VI Community Rehabilitation Program - Regional Continuing Educational Program in order to provide input to the vendor agencies providing supported employment services and to solicit input from these agencies in the planning and implementation of quality supported employment services.

The supported employment models utilized by LRS are:

1. Individual job/job coach model

2. Mobile crew model
3. Enclave model

It is estimated that at least 2,541 individuals can be provided supported employment services. Individuals with the most significant disabilities, Selection Groups I and II can be served.

Timeline for transition to extended services is as follows:

1. Supported employment models:
 - A. Individual Placement Model. Under the individual placement model, stabilization occurs when the consumer has made substantial progress toward meeting the hours per week goal indicated on an IPE and has reached a point where intervention is no more than 25 percent of the consumer's normal work time and the individual has received at least 6 months of VR services.
 - B. Mobile Crew and Enclave Models. For the consumer placed in an enclave or mobile work crew position, stabilization occurs when performance shows reasonable likelihood of progressing to a level sufficient to warrant "permanent employee" status (i.e., adequately performing the minimum number and types of assignments needed to merit continued employment within the limits of available supervision.

Example: The task acquisition data indicates the individual has acquired 75% of the vocational or other employment-related objectives.)
2. Extended Follow-along (transition) - Regardless of the model of supported employment in effect for any given consumer, the consumer must meet the following requirements before the Counselor can provide for the transition of the consumer from LRS to the provider of extended services:
 1. Job placement is stable for the consumer;
 2. The consumer has substantially met the goal for number of hours of employment as indicated on an IPE; and,
 3. The Supported Employment Provider agency has committed to arrange for, or develop on-going support needed to maintain the consumer's employment. This includes the development of natural supports.