



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

September 1, 2014

To: Medically Dependent Children Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 14-53
Medically Dependent Children Program Employment Services

The purpose of this letter is to inform Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) providers that effective September 1, 2014, an individual in the MDCP program may receive employment assistance or supported employment through either the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option or the agency option. Previously, an individual in the MDCP program could receive only respite and flexible family support.

Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) case managers will conduct a Job Interest Assessment with individuals ages 18 through 20 to determine the need for employment services. The new services are defined in MDCP program rules at title 40 of the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 51, effective September 1, 2014, as follows:

Employment Assistance

Employment assistance helps the individual locate competitive employment in the community. Employment assistance includes:

- identifying an individual's employment preferences, job skills, and requirements for a work setting and work conditions;
- locating prospective employers offering employment compatible with an individual's identified preferences, skills, and requirements; and
- contacting a prospective employer on behalf of an individual and negotiating the individual's employment.

Supported Employment

Supported employment is provided, in order to sustain competitive employment, to an individual who, because of a disability, requires intensive, ongoing support to be self-employed, work from home, or perform in a work setting at which individuals without disabilities are employed. Individuals receiving supported employment earn at least minimum wage (if not self-employed). Supported employment includes employment adaptations, supervision, and training related to an individual's assessed needs.

Provider Qualifications

Service providers of employment assistant and supported employment are at least 18 years of age, are not the individual's legally authorized representative, and must satisfy one of the following combinations of education and experience:

Option 1:

- a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation, business, marketing, or a related human services field; and
- six months of paid or unpaid experience providing services to people with disabilities.

Option 2:

- an associate's degree in rehabilitation, business, marketing, or a related human services field; and
- one year of paid or unpaid experience providing services to people with disabilities.

Option 3:

- a high school diploma or GED; and
- two years of paid or unpaid experience providing services to people with disabilities.

DADS will host a webinar to review employment services from 1:30p.m. to 3:00pm, central standard time on September 22, 2014, and September 25, 2014. Register for this webinar at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/communications/alerts/alerts.cfm?alertid=1520>

Service Codes and Rates

The new employment service codes are as follows:

- Supported Employment 37
- Employment Assistance 54

Rates can be found at <https://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Rad/long-term-svcs/downloads/2014-mdcp-rates.pdf>

Form Changes

Form 2429 Job Interest Assessment (New)

Form 2408 Individual Plan of Care Service Review (Revised)

Form 2410 Medical Social Assessment and Individual Plan of Care (Revised)

Form 2402 Consumer Directed Services Option – Services Authorization (Revised)

Form 2430 Employment Assistance and Supported Employment Authorization (New)

DADS case managers will identify the need for employment services using the Job Interest Assessment form until which time this form is available on the webpage in order to proceed with the service authorization process as needed.

Questions regarding the content of this letter may be submitted to mdcp@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Donna Jessee
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation

[signature on file]

Elisa J. Garza
Assistant Commissioner
Access and Intake