

Support Waiver

Information for people using this waiver/families/guardians:

DHHS Developmental Services has developed a new waiver program to assist you to be an active member of your community. The waiver offers support in five new areas. These new supports are outlined below. If you are now in a day hab program, we will be helping you to switch to this new program. Nothing has to change unless you want it to.

What are the five areas of service?

- 1. Community Supports** - Community Supports are available to assist you in being an active, healthy community member.

Some examples are:

- Learning safety skills (crossing streets, getting help, self-protection)
- Learning what it means to be an adult community member
- Learning how to be active and healthy
- Use public transportation (buses and taxis)
- Become involved in community activities, clubs, social events
- Learn what is in your community and how you can get connected - the library, the Y, adult education, etc.
- Volunteer

Community Supports can also help you on your path to employment. There are things that you can do to get ready for a job and that will help you with Vocational Rehabilitation. There are also things that Community Supports can do to help you after you get your job.

Some examples are:

- Be part of a job club where you can learn about what it takes to get and keep a job
- Obtain state I.D. and other things you need for a job
- Volunteer in places that you think you might be interested in working someday
- Create a resume/references/employment portfolio
- Take classes at the Career Center
- Explore what types of jobs there are and what your employment goal might be

Community Supports are capped at 1,300 hours per year (if you do not use any Employment Services)

- 2. Employment Supports** - Employment Services Support is available to you after you work with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). VR will help you to decide what type of job you want, will help you find a job, and then will help train you to do the job. This has to happen in a job

in the community and you can have up to 300 hours of support a year. You need to work with your case manager and VR Counselor to decide if you need help and how much.

Some examples of what Employment Supports can do are:

- Train you on new parts of your job
- Talk with your employer about things that you may need help with
- Help you to improve how you do your job
- Learn how to get to work on the bus
- Help you with medical needs
- Help you get along with co-workers
- Make sure you are safe at work
- Help you to not need help in the future

Employment Supports are capped at 300 hours per year

Community Supports and Employment supports combined are capped at 1,300 hours per year.

- 3. Home Accessibility Adaptations** - If you live at home with your family or you live in your own home and you need to make changes to your home to be more independent and to be safe and healthy, this program may be able to help you. These changes have to be ordered by a doctor to benefit your health.

Some things that this program may be able to do are:

- Bathroom modifications
- Widening of doorways
- Light, motion, voice and electronically activated devices
- Fire safety adaptations
- Air filtration devices
- Ramps and grab bars
- Lifts (can include barrier-free track lifts)
- Specialized electric and plumbing systems for medical equipment and supplies
- Unbreakable windows
- Specialized flooring (to improve mobility and sanitation)

Home Accessibility Adaptations are capped at \$5,000 over a three-year period

- 4. Transportation Services** - If you need to get to activities that are not paid for by other programs some transportation can be paid for. We want you to try and find transportation in other ways first, but if you cannot, then you can talk with your case manager and discuss this at your planning meeting.
- 5. Respite Services** – If you live at home and your family needs to go away or you need to get away and you need someone to be with you, then money can be given to you to pay for someone to help. The amount of money depends on how much help you need, how long you need it, and how much money the program has. You can work with your case manager and talk about it when you have your planning meeting.

Respite Services are capped at \$1,000 per year

Service Definitions for Support Waiver
DHHS- Developmental Services
7/9/2007

Community Support Services

Community Support is Direct Support provided in order to increase or maintain a member's ability to successfully engage in inclusive social and community relationships and to maintain and develop skills that support health and well-being. This is a habilitative service with a focus on community inclusion, personal development, and limited support in areas of daily living skills if necessary. Community Support may be provided as a center-based program in the local community, an individual program "without walls" (i.e. non center-based) or a combination of both. Community Support may be provided in the member's residence when the individual's physician determines that providing Community Support in another setting is medically contraindicated.

Employment Specialist Services

Employment Specialist Services include services necessary to support an individual in maintaining Employment. Services include: (1) periodic interventions on the job site to identify an individual's opportunities for improving productivity, minimizing the need for formal supports by promoting natural workplace relationships, adhering to expected safety practices, and promoting successful employment and workplace inclusion; (2) assistance in transitioning between employers when an individual's goal for type of employment is not substantially changed, including assistance identifying appropriate employment opportunities and assisting the individual in acclimating to a new job. Employment Specialist Services are provided by an Employment Specialist who may work either independently or under the auspices of a Supported Employment agency. The need for continued Employment Services must be documented in an Individual Plan as necessary to maintain employment over time.

Employment Specialist Services are provided at work locations where non-disabled individuals are employed as well as in entrepreneurial situations. Employment Specialist Services may be utilized to assist a participant to establish and or sustain a business venture that is income producing. Such situations may be perceived as segregated employment but in reality, they fall well within the scope of generally accepted business practices.

Work Support

Work Support is a therapeutic and supportive service provided to improve a member's ability to independently maintain productivity and employment. This service is commonly provided after a period of stabilization and encompasses adherence to workplace policies and productivity. It may also include training and assistance in areas such as hygiene, self-care, dress code, and related issues. Work Support is provided in a member's place of employment and may be provided in a member's home in preparation for work.

Home Accessibility Adaptations

Home Accessibility Adaptations are those physical adaptations to the home, required by the participant's service plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home.

Transportation Services

Transportation service offered in order to enable waiver participants to gain access to waiver and other community services, activities and resources, as specified by the service plan. This is offered in addition to medical transportation required under 42 CFR §431.53 and transportation services under the State plan, defined at 42 CFR §440.170 (a) (if applicable), and does not replace them. Transportation services under the waiver are offered in accordance with the participant's service plan. Whenever possible, family, neighbors, friends, or community agencies, which can provide this service without charge, are utilized.

Respite Services

Respite Services provided to participants unable to care for themselves that are furnished on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons who normally provide care for the participant. Respite may be provided in the participant's home, provider's home or other location as approved by a respite agency or DHHS: ex. Motel in case of emergency.

Expenditures for this service may not exceed \$1,000 per year.

Community Support

Community Support is Direct Support provided in order to increase or maintain a member's ability to successfully engage in inclusive social and community relationships and to maintain and develop skills that support health and well being. This is a habilitative service with a focus on community inclusion, personal development, and limited support in areas of daily living skills if necessary. Community Support may be provided as a center-based program in the local community, an individual program "without walls" (i.e. non center-based) or a combination of both. Community Support may be provided in the member's residence when the individual's physician determines that providing Community Support in another setting is medically contraindicated.

- This service cannot take place in someone's place of employment.
- The maximum annual allowance for Community Support is 1,300 hours per year.
- Employment Support has a maximum allowance of 300 hours, and any hours used are subtracted from the 1300 hours

What does it mean?

Community Support is available to assist people in being active, healthy community members. The services can be used to connect and support people in their communities while developing necessary skills. The services can also be used to assist people on "The Pathway to Employment".

Community Support can be used to assist someone to be included in their community. Some example areas of support with specific activities follow: (**Note: These are only examples and are not all inclusive.**)

Community

- Introduce new community settings
- Introduce new community experiences
- Introduce new community people
- Support established relationships
- Support new or established citizen roles
- Facilitate social interactions / natural support
- Support volunteer work
- Support attendance at community class
- Support club membership or involvement
- Support participation in community event
- Support physical activity/exercise
- Support library use, visit
- Support visit to museum, gallery

Skill Building

- Teach / support safety skills
- Teach / support social skills
- Teach / support health and well-being skills
- Teach / support personal appearance skills
- Teach / support personal hygiene skills

- Teach / facilitate communication with others
- Teach / support money transactions
- Teach / support use of public transportation
- Support planning / making choices

Program Based

- Provide program based activity
- Provide program based class / training
- Support attendance at self advocacy meeting
- Job Clubs

Pathway to Employment Support is used prior to working with Vocational Rehabilitation to prepare someone to become employed in their community. This could include:

- Participate in a job club
- Obtain state I.D., Social Security card, birth certificate
- Meet with benefits specialists.
- Volunteer in areas of employment interest
- Create a resume/references/employment portfolio
- Access Career Center
- Referral to Vocational Rehabilitation
- Discovery Process to Employment
- Support for off-site employment issues; such as going to jobs clubs, brainstorming issues, social issues,

Employment Services

Employment Specialist Services include services necessary to support an individual in maintaining Employment. Services include:

- Periodic interventions on the job site to identify an individual's opportunities for improving productivity, minimizing the need for formal supports by promoting natural workplace relationships, adhering to expected safety practices, and promoting successful employment and workplace inclusion.
- Assistance in transitioning between employers when an individual's goal for type of employment is not substantially changed, including assistance identifying appropriate employment opportunities and assisting the individual in acclimating to a new job. An Employment Specialist who may work either independently or under the auspices of a Supported Employment agency provides employment Specialist Services. The need for continued Employment Services must be documented in an Individual Plan as necessary to maintain employment over time.

Employment Specialist Services are provided at work locations where non-disabled individuals are employed as well as in entrepreneurial situations. Employment Specialist Services may be utilized to assist a participant to establish and or sustain a business venture that is income-producing. Such situations may be perceived as segregated.

Employment Specialist Services are provided on an intermittent basis with a maximum of 5 hours each month.

Work Support

Work Support is a therapeutic and supportive service provided to improve a member's ability to independently maintain productivity and employment. This service is commonly provided after a period of stabilization and encompasses adherence to workplace policies and productivity. It may also include training and assistance in areas such as hygiene, self-care, dress code, and related issues. Work Support is provided in a member's place of employment and may be provided in a member's home in preparation for work.

What does it Mean?

Employment Services Support is available to individuals who are exiting the Vocational Rehabilitation or have been found ineligible for services based on their severity of disability. Under federal regulations it cannot pay for services that would otherwise be provided by Vocational Rehabilitation. *

Employment services assist an individual to work in the community in competitive employment. This can include individual placement, small group settings in a competitive environment, or self-employment. The support from the two categories include support to prepare and get to work, to be a productive employee, and provide consultation/training to the employee/co-workers/employer.

Employment Specialist Services provides intensive support, consultation, instruction, re-training to the employee, work support person, co-workers, and employer. Examples of what this service may provide are:

Employment Specialist Services

- Environmental assessment
- Job site follow up / intervention
- Monitor job performance
- Assess / resolve job performance issues
- Job / task analysis
- Job modification / restructuring
- Employer consultation / support
- Facilitate social interaction / natural support
- Job coach consultation / support
- Obtain or maintain assistive technology
- Assist employer with accommodations
- Coordinate outside of job supports

Work support is the identified ongoing support needs of the individual in order to be a productive and successful employee. Examples of what this service may provide are:

Work Support

- Support to prepare for work
- Teach / support use of public transportation
- Support with timecard / work schedule
- Orientation to workplace
- Job analysis
- Job skills training
- Discrepancy analysis
- Maintain production data
- Support to attend employer's staff meeting
- Support to attend employer's staff training
- Support with scheduled breaks / lunch
- Consult with supervisor / coworker
- Facilitate social interaction / natural support
- Develop job accommodations
- Devise environmental modifications
- Maintain assistive technology
- Support to maintain work area
- Support for work safety
- Support adherence to workplace policies

There is a maximum annual allowance for the combination of Employment Specialist and Work Support Services of 300 hours

The cost of transportation related to the provision of Employment Services is a component of the rate paid for the service.

Home Accessibility Adaptations

Home Accessibility Adaptations are those physical adaptations to the home, required by the participant's service plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home.

These include adaptations that are not covered under state plan services and are determined medically necessary as documented by a licensed physician and approved by DHHS Office of Adults with Cognitive and Physical Disabilities.

Adaptations commonly include:

- Bathroom modifications
- Widening of doorways
- Light, motion, voice and electronically activated devices
- Fire safety adaptations
- Air filtration devices
- Ramps and grab-bars
- Lifts (can include barrier-free overhead track lifts)
- Specialized electric and plumbing systems for medical equipment and supplies
- Lexan windows (non-breakable for health & safety purposes)
- Specialized flooring (to improve mobility and sanitation)

The Manager of the Waiver must approve items not included above that have been recommended in a Person Centered Plan.

Excluded are those adaptations or improvements to the home that are of general utility, and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant.

Adaptations that are excluded:

- Add to the total square footage of the home except when necessary to complete an adaptation (e.g. in order to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair).
- In-floor radiant heating
- General household repairs

All services shall be provided in accordance with applicable State or local building codes

Home Accessibility Adaptations may only be made to the private residence of the participant or the participant's family.

\$5,000 limit in 3-year period with an additional annual allowance up to \$300 for repairs and replacement per year. **General household repairs are not included in this service.** All items in excess of \$500 require documentation from physician or other appropriate professional such as OT, PT or Speech therapist that purchase is appropriate to meet the individual's need. Medically necessary home modifications that cannot be obtained as a covered service under any other MaineCare benefit can be reimbursed under this section.