**Background:** The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) procures employment services for its clients from approved Community Rehabilitation Providers as part of an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that result in community-based employment at wages of minimum wage or higher. Historically in Maine, CRP’s have been reimbursed for their services based upon standard hourly rates. As a result of an intensive two year project with CRP’s, DVR is implementing changes in its CRP payment system, which will move it to an outcome based model. These changes will go into effect across the state during State Fiscal Year 2014 through a gradual regional roll-out.

**Employment Placement Services and Fees:** DVR will be using a tiered milestone payment system to fund CRP Employment Placement Services, based upon the individual’s functional limitations and significance of disability. This payment system would be used when an individual has a defined vocational goal and needs job development services. Job development services are defined as actively seeking employment on a specific individual’s behalf, which includes identifying appropriate job opportunities, making contacts with employers and referral to specific jobs, as well as possibly helping with resume preparation, applications and interview skills.   
  
The Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will determine the applicable tier utilizing DVR’s Order of Selection (OOS) rules and process.

* Tier I milestone payments will be available for individuals identified as in DVR’s Order of Selection Category I (Most Significantly Disabled).
* Tier II milestone payments will be available for individuals identified as in DVR’s Order of Selection Category 2 or Category 3 (Significantly Disabled and Disabled).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MILESTONES\*** | **TIER I** | **TIER II** |
| 1. Plan for Employment Search Written | $ 900 | $ 500 |
| 2. Placed in Employment – Completes 1 work day | $ 900 | $ 500 |
| 3. Maintains Employment – Completes 45 calendar days | $1,000 | $ 500 |
| 4. Retains Employment – Eligible for successful VR closure | $1,200 | $1,000 |
| TOTAL | $ 4,000 | $ 2,500 |
|  |  |  |
| Bonus Payment – SSI/SSDI Recipients at SGA Earnings Level | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 |
|  |  |  |
| Additional Subsidies\*\* : |  |  |
| Remote Area Travel | 15% | 15% |
| Required Population Specific Certification/Competency | 15% | 15% |

The milestone payment system and potential additional fees are as follows:

**\* Milestone payments can only be issued for employment outcomes consistent with the IPE**.

\*\*As part of CRP contract, select agencies will be provided additional funding to reach underserved areas and populations.

**Job Coaching Services and Fees:** Based upon individualized need, DVR will fund pre-authorized job coaching at an hourly rate of **$30 per hour**.  
  
  
**Stand-Alone Single Services:** Based upon individualized need, DVR may engage a CRP to provide a stand-alone single service at an hourly rate of **$30 per hour**. These types of services would only be funded separately if the individual was not receiving employment placement services. Examples include trial work experiences to determine VR eligibility, situational assessments for vocational goal development, and employment preparation activities, such as resume writing, job shadows/tours, job application assistance, interview preparation, and self-employment support, as well as post-employment services.   
  
 **CRP Reporting and Payment Processing:** Utilizing the existing R-20 process, DVR will provide prior authorization of the individualized services to be provided by the CRP. Once the authorized service has been completed or employment milestone achieved, the CRP will request payment by returning the R-20 with supporting documentation, utilizing the report formats that are available on the DVR web site: <http://www.maine.gov/rehab/crp/index.shtml>