

**Employment Readiness Pre-Bid Meeting Q&A
4-30-2019**

Q1. Is there Overlap between the Placement and Supported Employment contract?

A1. This contract is designed for a soft skills training – the goal is for each client to transfer over to the placement contract after receiving the employment readiness. There is no overlap with Supported Employment.

Q2. People that are referred where are they being referred from.

A2. Clients are referred from the counselor, clients that have not worked, clients that are unemployed.

Q3. Is the minimum wage subtracted out of the \$1600?

A3. Yes, the minimum wage payments should be subtracted from the \$1,600 maximum payment for four weeks.

Q4. If consumer needs supports such as shoes uniform etc.

A4. Yes, DVR will cover supports. Please note the client should be considered an employee of the awarded vendor and not the employer. Supports such as shoes, uniform etc. should not be required by the employer if the client is doing a volunteer work experience. However it is up to the awarded vendor to pay each client for the volunteer work experience not the employer.

Q5. Will there be clarification of the dollar amount for DVR Support.

A5. Upon contract negotiation DVR will negotiate the support amounts such as shoes, etc.

Q6. Some may work a week – and may not stay on job, but supports were paid for. Is this acceptable to DVR?

A6. Yes this is acceptable, this is the same as if a client volunteered for a week and did not stay on the job, and the only difference is the awarded vendor is responsible for paying a wage.

Q7. Do you have a profile of a participant?

A7. Clients have a range of varying disabilities and are in need of one or more readiness skills to obtain employment as determined by the VR Counselor.

Q8. What if a consumer is sent to Starbucks who pays the salary?

A8. The awarded vendor pays the salary out of the \$1600 not the employer. To the employer it is considered volunteer work. Employer does not have to compensate client, employer is not taking on any liability etc., and the employer does not have to hire the client after the paid work experience has been completed.

Q9. What will the state do in anticipation of Minimum wage increases?

A9. DVR will negotiate the increase upon contract negotiation, per the RFP Appendix A pg. 5 Vendors should adjust reimbursable expenses for future minimum wage increases. Increases in minimum wage will be deducted from the maximum DVR payment allotment of \$1,600.

Regular Rate:

Effective 01-01-19 \$8.75/hour

Effective 10-01-19 \$9.25/hour

Youth Rate: (Ages 14-17)

Effective 01-01-19 \$8.25/hour

Effective 10-01-19 \$8.75/hour

Q10. How many consumers can a vendor provide services for at one time?

A10. There is no limit, however the more you train the more the performance may suffer, and clients will not be prepared for successful job placement. It is advised to provide individual attention to each consumer.

Q11. In the classroom schedule, how should we determine the number of consumers if it is not known?

A11. Vendor may only receive one referral from counselor in which the vendor will have to wait to get a classroom of 5.

Q12. Vendor can anticipate a class every month, is it ok if vendor is not meeting scheduled class projections.

A12. Vendor should include classroom size is anticipated at x amount of consumers based on referrals from counselor's.

Q13. Will the counselor and the vendor have the flexibility to modify the 18 hour requirement based on individual consumer needs?

A13. If a vendor provides only 8 hours of service – payments are prorated, instead of receiving the maximum payment of \$1,600 the vendor would receive the prorated amount of \$800. The vendor can provide 3 hours per day for 5 days a week as long as the training does not exceed 18 hours in one week.

Q14. Can consumers be employed at the vendor's location?

A14. Yes, but only with prior approval by the VR Counselor and as long as vendor pays minimum wage for the on-the job work-experience.

Q15. Can the youth training wage of \$8.25 be utilized for this service?

A15. Yes.