



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES &
SERVICE TO THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2015

TO: Vocational Rehabilitation Service Providers
DRS& SBVI Vocational Rehabilitation Offices

FROM: Eric Weiss, DRS Director *ew*
Gaye Mattke, SBVI Director *gm*

SUBJECT: Reimbursement Rates for Certified Employment Support Professionals

The Vocational Rehabilitation Programs within the South Dakota Divisions of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (SBVI) are pleased to announce a new initiative that will promote quality integrated employment services for individuals with significant disabilities to obtain and maintain competitive employment.

Effective June 1, 2015 VR Services Providers who obtain the status of Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) from the Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE) and complete a 2 day Person Centered Thinking (PCT) training will be reimbursed 25% above the current established fee rates. The higher reimbursement rate is available to VR Service Providers, sometimes referred to as Employment Specialists, Job Developers and Job Coaches. The services authorized by the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors consist of Job Placement, Job Coaching, Employment/Follow Along, Vocational Assessments, Independent Living Services and Employment Skills Training.

This initiative is optional for VR Service Providers and the standard fee rate will remain for those who are not certified and/or have not completed the 2 day PCT training. The approval for the 25% higher reimbursement rate is specific to the individual VR Service Provider rather than the agency that employs them. If an agency has multiple VR Service Providers, the higher reimbursement rate is only available for those staff members who are certified and have completed the 2 day PCT training. VR Service Providers who obtain certification and verification of the 2 day PCT training will submit their information to the DRS State Office for approval.

To help promote this initiative, the State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs will:

- Provide regional trainings on Supported Employment core competencies;

- Provide regional trainings on Person Centered Thinking;
- Arrange CESP examinations in South Dakota; and
- Reimburse VR Service Providers for the initial certification examination.

APSE CESP™ Certification

The Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE) is a long standing National organization that promotes the highest level of employment services for individuals with disabilities. In 2010, APSE developed the first national certification program for Employment Support Professionals. Information on APSE and the CESP Certification can be found on their website: WWW.APSE.org.

APSE membership is not required to take the CESP examination. The cost for the initial CESP examination is \$159.00 and this will be reimbursed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services after the VR Service Provider takes the examination. The reimbursement will be paid regardless of passing or failing the examination. However reimbursements will not be paid if:

- The individual is not an approved South Dakota Service Provider;
- The individual does not attend the examination;
- The costs are associated with retaking the examination; or
- The costs are associated with certification renewals.

APSE CESP examination dates and locations will be offered annually in South Dakota. Examination dates, locations and applications to take the examination can be found on the APSE web site at: <http://www.apse.org/certified-employment-support-professional/exam-opportunities/>. For 2015, the following examinations have been scheduled in South Dakota for the following dates and locations:

April 8th, 2015 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls City Centre
100 West 8th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Examination Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon (CT)
Applications must be received by March 30, 2015

April 10th, 2015 – Rapid City, South Dakota
Howard Johnson
950 North Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Examination Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon (MT)
Applications must be received by March 31, 2015

October 13th, 2015 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Best Western Ramkota Hotel
3200 W. Maple Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
Examination Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon (CT)
Applications must be received by October 3, 2015

Person Centered Thinking

Person Centered Thinking (PCT) is a set of values, skills and tools used in Person Centered Planning and in the personalization of services used to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals for an enriched life. One of the goals for the Department of Human Services is to provide individualized services to support people with disabilities to meet the goals they choose. To meet this goal, this initiative will require VR Service providers to attend a two-day training on Person Centered Thinking. These training dates and locations will be provided at a later date. If a VR Service provider has previously attended a two-day PCT training, their supervisor would need to submit a letter to the DRS Assistant Director confirming the training with the date, location and name of trainer.

Future Trainings for VR Service Providers

The Division of Rehabilitation Services is scheduling various trainings during the next 12 months that will help VR Services providers develop their knowledge and skills in the core areas of Supported Employment. The announcement of trainings will be posted in the VR Offices and sent to the VR Service Providers. Certificates of attendance will be issued at any future training sponsored by DRS or SBVI. This certificate will be needed for the APSE CESP renewals and verifications of attending any Person Centered Trainings.

To help answer questions on this new initiative, a video conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. (CT) to 11:00 a.m. on March 18, 2015. The video conference sites will be at held at various locations across the state and this information is enclosed with this document. Any additional inquires can be made by contacting Bernie Grimme at Bernie.Grimme@State.SD.US or calling at 605-773-3195.

Enclosures: Video Conference Locations

Attention Service Providers and Vocational Rehabilitation Staff:

The South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services will be hosting a video conference presentation for Vocational Rehabilitation Service Providers at 9:00 – 11:00am (CT) on March 18, 2015.

This presentation will cover the new initiative on higher reimbursement rates for VR Service providers who are certified and completed a 2 day Person Centered Thinking training.

Following are the video site locations

City	VR Contact #	Building	Address
Aberdeen	626-2398	DHS Conference Room	1707 4 th Ave SE
Brookings	688-4280	DHS Conference Room	1310 Main Ave S
Chamberlain	734-4555	DHS Conference Room	320 Sorenson Dr,
Huron	353-7130	DHS Conference Room	2361 Dakota Ave S
Mitchell	995-8072	DHS Conference Room	1321 N Main
Pierre	773-3195	Capital Basement, DDN A	500 E Capitol
Rapid City	394-2261	SDSM&T CB109	501 E St Joseph St
Rapid City	394-2261	DHS Conference Room	2330 N Maple St 2
Sioux Falls	367-5330	DHS Conference Room	811 E 10 th St
Sioux Falls	367-5330	DHS Small Conf Room	811 E 10 th St
Sioux Falls	367-5330	Rehab Center	2900 W 11 th St, Ste 101
Watertown	882-5150	DHS Conference Room	2001 9 th Ave SW
Yankton	668-3050	DHS Conference Room	3113 Spruce

If there are multiple locations in a community, please work with the local VR office on which site to attend. Please forward this e-mail to individuals who may be interested in attending this video conference. There is no registration required to attend but it is recommended you contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation Services office to let them know of the number of people attending. The phone number is listed under the column "VR Contact #".

The video conference sites are accessible to people with mobility impairments. If you need auxiliary aides or services in order to participate in the video conference meeting, (e.g., sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format), please submit a request to Bernie Grimme at Bernie.Grimme@state.sd.us (605) 773-3195 at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Bernie Grimme.