



Headlines

Round 1 Organizations: Final Reports are in!

The time has come to formally acknowledge all the great work happening around the state. Thank you all for your progress towards getting people into community jobs and strengthening the workforce with quality candidates!

If you have not yet turned in your final report, please reach out to your Wise consultant for support.



Core Competency Training Requirements for Employment Professionals

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) developed two Worker Guides for Employment Professional Training:

- Request for Continuing Education Hours for Employment Professionals Worker Guide
- Employment Professional Training and Credentialing Requirements Worker Guide

Both of these documents can be found on the [Employment Providers Resources page](#), or the [I/DD Employment Policy page](#).



Calendar

August 1-2:
[OELN Introduction to Supported Employment, Discovery, and Employment Planning](#)
(Portland)

August 20-21:
[OELN: Systematic Instruction and Follow-Along](#)
(Clackamas)

September 4-5:
[OELN Social Security Benefits and Work Incentives](#)
(Clackamas)

September 13-14:
[OELN Introduction to Supported Employment, Discovery, and Employment Planning](#)
(Salem)

Note that classes can fill up quickly. Please sign up for future training announcements by joining [our email list here](#).

ODDS funds the OELN Training Series, making it available to employment providers for **no registration cost**.

Additionally, the Department is pleased to announce the acceptance of the [Core Competency Training modules](#) available in iLearn Oregon will apply toward the 12 hour annual training requirement (up to 8 hours of credit), and may be utilized as initial training (as described in OAR 411-345-0300) for Employment Professionals. All 12 modules must be completed to apply toward the initial training requirement within 90 days.



Looking for additional training opportunities? New staff to the field?

Registration is now open for the **Highline Employment Professional Certificate Program** in Vancouver, WA. Click on the link below for more information.

[Highline Course Catalog](#)

For for information, please contact:

Jenny Crook
jenny@gowise.org
(503) 729-9690



Increases in Minimum wage and the importance of benefits planning

With increases to Oregon's minimum wage as of July 1st, 2018, it is important as ever to support people to access information around maintaining benefits and making more money.

Below are two [Work Incentives Network](#) resources being circulated to help provide information.

If you have any questions or concerns about SSI/SSDI benefits and working, please call the WIN Benefits Hotline at 800-661-2571. If participants have previously received benefits counseling services, they are encouraged to reach out to the counselor who provided the service to review their benefits counseling plan.

There are also resources and information on [WIN's website](#). Information on benefits is also available from [Plan for Work](#) through Disability Rights Oregon: 503-243-2081 x227 or 1-800-452-1694 x227.

Minimum Wage and Supplemental Security Income SSI Benefits

- About the Oregon Minimum Wage Increase:
- Oregon's minimum wage will increase again in July 2018
 - Separate rates will apply to different areas of Oregon (see back page)
 - By 2022 the minimum wage will range from \$12.50 to \$14.75 per hour

Fact: In the state of Oregon, an individual receiving SSI benefits can earn at least \$34,591 per year and still stay connected to SSI and Medicaid (OHP). Eligibility to SSI and Medicaid will continue even if the SSI check is reduced to zero dollars!

The annual amount that can be earned and stay connected to SSI and Medicaid. More can possibly be earned depending on the person's circumstances. *The 2017 rates apply until SSA updates the Medicaid threshold amount.

\$34,591
2017

Fact: \$750 is the maximum monthly SSI payment for 2018.

Fact: For every \$2 that a beneficiary earns the SSI check will be reduced by about \$1. The 2 for 1 reduction ensures that a working beneficiary will always have more monthly income than on SSI alone.

It pays to work!

This information only applies to those beneficiaries receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This information does NOT apply to individuals who are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Example Calculations at 20hrs per week

	\$10.75/Hr	\$14.75/Hr
Monthly Earnings	\$930	\$1,277
Cash Deduction	-\$85.00	-\$85.00
Remaining Balance	\$845	\$1,192
50% Deduction	Divide by 2	Divide by 2
TOTAL Countable	\$422.50	\$596
Estimated SSI Check (S750-TOTAL Countable)	\$327.50	\$139
Total Monthly Income	\$1,257.50	\$1,416

For more information contact the Work Incentives Network at 800-661-2571

Minimum Wage and Social Security Disability Insurance SSDI or Title II Benefits

- About the Oregon Minimum Wage Increase:
- Oregon's minimum wage will increase again in July 2018
 - Separate rates will apply to different areas of Oregon (see back page)

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA):

- SGA is a system that the Social Security Administration (SSA) uses to determine if an individual has or continues to have a disability
- Implementation of special work incentives can enable a beneficiary to earn over SGA (\$1,180/month for 2018) and still stay connected to SSDI and Medicare
- It is important that an individual seek benefits counseling when approaching SGA level earnings so a benefits plan can be developed
- Call the **WIN Benefits Hotline** at 800-661-2571 for assistance

Financial Planning:

- Sometimes earnings from work can far exceed the SSDI check amount and transitioning off SSDI can be a valid option depending on the goals of the individual
- A good benefits plan will help a person achieve their financial and employment goals and not place limits on the individual

Medical Benefits and Supports:

- I/DD supports require Medicaid eligibility and there typically are multiple ways for an individual to get access to Medicaid in Oregon
- It is very unlikely that employment will cause a person to lose Medicare or Medicaid and in fact employment can actually make more Medicaid options available

This information applies only to SSDI and NOT SSI beneficiaries!

For more information contact the Work Incentives Network at 800-661-2571

HCBS and Timelines

Sheltered Workshops **versus** Employment Path Facility

Without a variance from the state of Oregon, they are not eligible for federal funding after March 15, 2019

Exception cannot be extended past Sept. 1, 2020

Must be HCBS-compliant by Sept. 1, 2018

Must be used in combination with Employment Path Community or another community service.

For more information, refer to the section below: HCBS Reminder & Worker's Guide.



Survey:
Input on potential job coach training

On June 11th, 2018, ODDS held a call to ask Employment Agencies about a potential



HCBS Reminder & Worker's Guide

This is a reminder that the Sept. 1, 2018 deadline is coming soon.

job coaching training program.

ODDS is still looking for more feedback. Please take a moment to fill out this survey.

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/4417463/Job-Coach-Training-Survey>

Check out the new digs for:
[Oregon Transformation Project
Employment-First.org](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCBS/ODDS/HCBS_SW%20Request%20for%20Additional%20Time%20Worker%20Guide.pdf)

Most providers in Oregon know that we have been preparing for the new [Home and Community Based Services](#) (HCBS) regulations for many years. Under these regulations, employment services not given in a community setting or with significant community components to ensure integration will not be eligible for federal funding as of March 2019, unless a specific exception is made. Oregon has given Medicaid-funded providers until Sept. 1, 2018 to comply.

A full worker's guide with more information is online at:
http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCBS/ODDS/HCBS_SW%20Request%20for%20Additional%20Time%20Worker%20Guide.pdf

For a glance at the different requirements between Employment Path Facility and Sheltered Employment, refer to the above graphic.

The logo for 'wise' features a stylized lowercase 'w' in yellow and green above the word 'wise' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The background is a dark grey/black area with a faint, white geometric pattern of interconnected lines and dots.