

Entry to Sheltered Workshops: Upcoming Policy Changes

*Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)
for Individuals and Families, Part 2*

06/11/15

Office of Developmental Disability Services
Employment First

Contents

QUESTION #1: What if I am currently in a sheltered workshop and I want to get a job in the community. What should I think about? ...	3
QUESTION #2: If a job does not work out, can I return to the Sheltered Workshop?	3
QUESTION #3: If I return to the sheltered workshop, what are the expectations?	3
QUESTION #4: Can I have a job in the community and continue to receive employment services in a sheltered workshop at the same time?	4
QUESTION #5: Am I allowed to change to another sheltered workshop?..	4
QUESTION #6: What if I use different services, such as day services (also commonly known as ATE or DSA), from a provider who also has a sheltered workshop? Will I still be able to receive other services from that provider?	4

Note: A previous F.A.Q. on this policy, including background information on the July 1 sheltered workshop policy, is available at: www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/Documents/FAQ%20Sheltered%20Workshops.pdf

This second F.A.Q. document features additional questions received from individuals during recent stakeholder phone calls.

QUESTION #1: What if I am currently in a sheltered workshop and I want to get a job in the community. What should I think about?

Answer: The Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) is encouraging everyone in a sheltered workshop to get a job in the community. We understand that some people may have questions about working in the community. The first step is to discuss with your team what types of work you are interested in. You should also discuss any concerns or fears you have about working in the community. That way, these concerns and fears can be addressed.

It is not unusual for people to try different jobs and employers. Sometimes it may take several tries before someone finds the job that is a good fit.

QUESTION #2: If a job does not work out, can I return to the Sheltered Workshop?

Answer: Yes. After July 1, 2015, if you leave a sheltered workshop, you may return if you have not been gone for more than one year (12 months).

QUESTION #3: If I return to the sheltered workshop, what are the expectations?

Answer: The purpose of services in a sheltered workshop, also known as “Employment Path Facility” services, is to help someone get a job in the community. These services are time-limited. With your Service Coordinator or Personal Agent, you will determine how long you will use Employment Path services. You and your team will still need to plan for how you will explore and get a job in the community. This discussion should include why past jobs did not work out and what types of jobs you might like. Your Service Coordinator or Personal Agent can talk with you about employment services that can help you get a job.

QUESTION #4: Can I have a job in the community and continue to receive employment services in a sheltered workshop at the same time?

Answer: Yes, you can work in the community or look for a job while also continuing to use services in a sheltered workshop. We hope everyone in a sheltered workshop can get a job in the community that meets their goals and interests. Ideally, this community job should provide enough hours of work that you won't need services in a sheltered workshop. We understand that this may not happen right away.

You can continue to use "Employment Path" services in a sheltered workshop to help you develop skills to improve your community job opportunities. This includes increasing your hours, changing the type of work, or career advancement.

There might be limits and conditions to the amount of employment service hours you can use. Discuss this with your Service Coordinator or Personal Agent.

QUESTION #5: Am I allowed to change to another sheltered workshop?

Answer: Yes, current ODDS policy allows this. However, if you are leaving a sheltered workshop, it would be a great opportunity to consider other employment services also available to help you prepare for, explore, or obtain a job in the community. These services may be a better fit for meeting your employment goals and interests. Your Service Coordinator or Personal Agent can talk with you about your options and how different services can help further your goals.

QUESTION #6: What if I use different services, such as day services (also commonly known as ATE or DSA), from a provider who also has a sheltered workshop? Will I still be able to receive other services from that provider?

Answer: Yes, you may continue to receive other types of services from your provider, even if they also provide employment services in a Sheltered Workshop. The only ODDS service used for support in a Sheltered Workshop is "Employment Path Facility." This service is time-limited.



This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this publication in another format or language, call 503-945-9822 or 1-800-282-8096 for TTY.