

Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) OVR Referrals

Supports Coordinators & Employment Providers

WHEN SHOULD I MAKE A REFERRAL TO THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (OVR)?

AAW employment services may not duplicate services that are available through OVR, and participants are not automatically eligible for AAW employment services. The team needs to consider services available through OVR. If the participant does not meet an exception to receiving OVR services as outlined below, the participant is expected to first seek services through OVR.

To allow the necessary time for the OVR referral process, you should make a referral as soon as a participant indicates they are interested in competitive employment or needs a vocational assessment or job finding services to advance in their current job.

NOTE: AAW Career Planning and Supported Employment services may not be provided when a participant refuses to be referred to OVR for services or during OVR's eligibility determination process after the referral to OVR has been made.

EXCEPTIONS

- When a participant is already competitively employed and solely needs extended supports to maintain their current job.
- When a participant is already competitively employed and is seeking vocational assessment or job finding services to find a new job.
- When a participant has an ineligibility determination from OVR or OVR has previously closed the participant's case.
- When a participant is interested in Small Group Employment, unless the participant is under the age of 24 and is paid at sub-minimum wage. In those situations, Small Group Employment may only be authorized as a new service on the ISP when documentation has been obtained that OVR has closed the participant's case or that the participant has been determined ineligible for OVR services.



For additional information about requirements of referring individuals to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), see the [OVR Bulletin](#).

Please submit questions regarding this Service Guidance Document to BSASP at RA-basprovidersupprt@pa.gov

This resource was developed for the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations by the ASERT Collaborative.

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