

11-18-14

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Employment First Steering Committee

Re: Commonly Asked Questions from Individuals and Families

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

The Steering Committee for the Employment First initiative, which includes leadership from Employment First, the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) recently approved a document designed to help answer some of the questions we have heard from individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families over the past months. The document can be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/Documents/FAQ%20for%20Individuals%20and%20Families.pdf>

We hope these “[Commonly Asked Questions from Individuals and Families](#)” will provide guidance and help alleviate some concerns that we know many people are having with all the recent changes in the system. Change can be difficult, but we remain confident that Oregon’s commitment to increasing individual, community employment options for people with I/DD is the right and necessary path.

Please share this document with families and individuals who may be interested in this information. In addition to posting it on the Employment First [website](#), we plan to also address some of the individual questions listed here on an ongoing basis through our weekly messages.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

Signed:

Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Lilia Teninty, Director of ODDS

Sarah Drinkwater, Assistant Superintendent, Oregon Department of Education

Robert Costello, VR Executive Team