

■ Aug. 7, 2015 ■

To: [Employment First](#) Stakeholders

From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: July 2015 Data Report

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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July Data Report Published

The Employment First initiative is focused on two primary areas: improving employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and decreasing the number of people in sheltered workshops. As one way to monitor our progress, the Executive Order 15-01 (EO) calls for a semi-annual data report.

Here are some highlights of the Employment First July 2015 Data Report. You can review the Employment First full data report at: <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/DataReports/Data%20Report%20Executive%20Order%20July%202015.pdf>

- There were 1,476 people in “competitive integrated employment” in March 2015. In the EO, “competitive integrated employment” means an individual gets a job in the community that pays at least minimum wage or better and is fully integrated into the workplace;
- The EO requires the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to provide new employment services to at least 1,350 people by July 1, 2015. Employment services are those designed to help a person obtain an integrated job in their community. From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015, 1,661 people from the sheltered workshop and transition-age youth population received an employment service. This exceeds the EO requirement by 311 individuals.
- As reported in an [earlier message about VR](#), more people are seeking out VR services to get a community job (42 percent increase), more people with I/DD are getting into

an individual plan for employment (86 percent increase), and more people are actually getting integrated jobs (56 percent increase). This VR data reports on growth since July 1, 2013.

- Based on a March 2015 count, there were 1,926 ODDS service recipients working in a sheltered setting; and
- For people working in individual supported employment, average wages were \$9.57 per hour. Average hours worked per week were 9.7.

More people are getting individual jobs in their community, and fewer people are using sheltered workshop services. This is progress, but our work is not done. We will continue efforts to help people get jobs and reduce use of sheltered workshop services. We also want to focus on increasing average hours worked and improve the ratio of people in individual jobs versus group employment.

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 other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

Additional Note: Planning My Way to Work is a free guide for students with disabilities and their families to help them navigate the transition from school to work. It is now available in Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese. Download a copy from the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) [website](#) or [fill out an order form](#) to receive printed copies.

For more information, call OCDD at 503-945-9941, or email ocdd@ocdd.org.

