

A Guide for Rehabilitation Counselors

Activities from Intake to Plan Development

- Act as a “cheerleader” and a support to consumers
- Convey high expectations for consumers
- Assess beneficiaries' existing support systems
- Recruit family, significant others, and/or other individuals identified by consumers to be part of an ongoing support-system
- Educate members of the support system about the importance of being active and consistent cheerleaders who encourage and challenge consumers
- Assess consumers' interest in and ability to act as self-advocates, and train them accordingly
- Recruit peer mentors and/or support groups that can assist and encourage consumers throughout the transition process
- Refer consumers to or connect them with individuals or agencies that will provide benefits planning and educate consumers about work incentives
- Assess the consumers need for assistive technology
- Assess their interest in becoming more independent, and provide information on available services and organizations to help in that process
- Provide information about the importance of postsecondary education and identify ways to help consumers be successful if they choose to pursue higher education
- Assign Ticket to Work

Plan Development and In-Plan Activities

- Develop plans that will result in well-paying, self-sustaining employment consistent with consumers' informed choice
- Encourage consumers to strive for their maximum potential in education and work to ensure self-sustaining employment from well-paying jobs
- Identify, purchase, and provide training in needed assistive technology
- Connect consumers with Disabled Student Services programs at their college or university
- Write intermediate objectives that start slowly in school and build towards more rigorous work loads
- Meet regularly with consumers and their support team to review progress and ensure a consistent message of support

- Develop internships and/or other work experiences
- Increase benefits planning for consumers and their support teams as paid work occurs
- In partnership with the benefits planner, establish a separate bank account and set aside benefits checks that are overpayments to eliminate the cumulative financial impact of overpayments

Closure Activities

- Ensure that ongoing supports are in place
- Ensure that consumers are aware of the availability of post-employment services
- Recruit consumers to act as peer mentors to other beneficiaries
- Identify Employment Networks that will use the Partnership Plus model and provide ongoing support for the consumer