



Department of Health Services: Guiding Principles for Competitive Integrated Employment

Talking Points for Families

- The Department of Health Services Guiding Principles for Competitive Integrated Employment do not change Department policy on employment but will help the Department better support people with disabilities who want to work in competitive integrated employment.
- The Guiding Principles do not change the range of employment supports or funding that are currently available through programs like Family Care, IRIS or county waiver programs.
- Supported employment services, pre-vocational services, vocational futures planning, benefits counseling, and other employment-related services that are part of people's person-centered plans currently are not impacted by the Guiding Principles.
- The Guiding Principles align with Governor Walker's goals to help more people, including people with disabilities, join the Wisconsin workforce. The Governor talked about this in his state budget address.
- The Guiding Principles are based on evidence that shows what it takes to help people with disabilities get jobs in competitive integrated employment.
- The Guiding Principles talk about the need for informed choice in making decisions about employment to make sure people have full information to decide what type of supports they need.
- The Department will use the Guiding Principles to work with businesses that are interested in employing more people with disabilities.
- The Guiding Principles talk about how employment services available through other sources, including schools, should also focus on supporting people and youth with disabilities to get jobs.
- The Guiding Principles are focused on outcomes. This is different than talking about employment services. A service like prevocational services or supported employment can help someone reach an outcome. While DHS services and funding are not changed in any way, the principles indicate that the Department prioritizes seeing as many people working in competitive wage jobs as is possible.