



Office of Mental Health

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To: Adult Behavioral Health HCBS Designated Providers
Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services Program Providers

To: Adult Behavioral Health (BH) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Designated Providers,
Managed Care Plans and Health and Recovery Plans

From: New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Services (OASAS)

Re: Guidance: Adult Behavioral Health (BH) Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) &
Adult Career Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

Date: 07/25/17

Memorandum

The following guidance provides an overview of ACCES VR funded opportunities in which an HCBS participant may benefit if he or she is eligible. HCBS designated providers are strongly encouraged to have a full understanding of all ACCES VR funded supports in an effort to offer resources that may supplement opportunities through HCBS.

Details related to ACCES VR eligibility along with an example of how an individual may benefit from participating in HCBS and ACCES VR supports are included in the attached guidance.

If you have any questions regarding BH HCBS and ACCES-VR, please contact Liam McNabb at omh.sm.co.HCBS-Application@omh.ny.gov, or call the OMH Rehabilitation Services Unit at 518-473-8561.

Guidance: Adult Behavioral Health (BH) Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) & Adult Career Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

In an effort to be person centered, Health Home Care Managers and provider agencies designated to deliver any or all of the BH HCBS Education Support and/or Employment Support Services are strongly encouraged to offer ACCES-VR related information to the individual, as there may be additional resources available to support the individual's pursuit of education and/or employment.

ACCES-VR and BH HCBS Services

Eligibility

BH HCBS Eligibility: Individuals who are enrolled in a Health and Recovery Plan (HARP) will be assessed by their Health Home Care Manager for HCBS eligibility using the NYS Eligibility (Brief) Assessment. An individual found eligible for either Tier 1 or Tier 2 HCBS services is eligible for Education Support and/or Employment Support Services, if he or she has expressed an interest in obtaining or maintaining competitive and integrated employment or self-employment.

ACCES-VR Eligibility: Any individual who has a disability that impacts his or her ability to obtain or maintain a job, or who has difficulty advancing while employed, *may* be eligible for ACCES-VR services. Orientation and Eligibility determinations are facilitated by ACCES-VR and begin with the submission of the VR-04 VR Application. Supporting medical documentation from the individual's doctor, treatment program, school, or other service providers may be necessary. In some cases, ACCES-VR may request the person participate in a formal assessment or evaluation to determine eligibility.

If the individual receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) that is based on an SSA disability determination, ACCES-VR will assume the individual is eligible for VR services. Orientation sessions and more information are available at the local District Office. ACCES-VR District Office information can be found on the [ACCES VR website](#).

Service Descriptions

BH HCBS are not otherwise available to the individual through other Medicaid services or other federally funded programs. All BH HCBS Individual Education/Employment Support services are coordinated by the Health Home Care Manager and are authorized and managed by the individual's Managed Care Organization (MCO). As a managed benefit, these services are integrated into the individual's person-centered BH HCBS Plan of Care. ACCES-VR services are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, via the Rehabilitation Services Administration and managed by NYS Education Department ACCES-VR. ACCES-VR services are not an integrated or managed benefit.

BH HCBS Education Support Services and Employment Support Services:

BH HCBS Education Support Services are provided to assist individuals with disabling mental health and/or substance use disorders who want to start or return to school or formal training with a goal of achieving skills necessary to obtain employment. These services may consist of general support services such as applying for and attending Adult Education, trade school, community college, university or other college-level courses. Services may also include enrollment in classes, vocational training, and tutoring to receive a Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) diploma or participation in an apprenticeship program. ***Ongoing Supported Education*** is offered after the individual has been successfully admitted to an educational program. Ongoing follow-along support is available for an indefinite period as requested by the participant to maintain his or her status as a registered student.

BH HCBS Individual Employment Support Services:

Pre-Vocational Services are time-limited services that prepare an individual for paid or unpaid employment. This service specifically provides learning and work experiences where the individual with mental health and/or substance use disorders can develop general, non-job-task-specific strengths and soft skills that contribute to employability in a competitive and integrated work environment.

Transitional Employment is a service designed to strengthen the individual's work record and provide support to individuals to gain skills to enable transition to integrated, competitive employment. The ideal outcome of this service is improved motivation and self-confidence to work in competitive employment. A career plan can be used to guide Intensive Supported Employment (ISE) services (see description of ISE below).

Intensive Supported Employment is a service that assists individual with mental health and/or substance use disorders to obtain and maintain competitive and integrated employment at or above minimum wage. It will follow the evidence-based principles practices based the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment which includes rapid job search and placement. Intensive Supported Employment consists of supports that enable individuals for whom competitive employment is unlikely, absent the provision of supports, and who, because of their clinical and functional needs, require support to perform in a regular work environment.

Ongoing Supported Employment is a service provided after an individual has successfully obtained and become oriented to competitive and integrated employment. Ongoing follow-along support is available for an indefinite period of time, as needed by the individual to sustain his or her employment. These services are individualized and person-centered.

New York State Education Department Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) include:

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance;
- Assessments and Evaluations;
- Rehabilitation Technology;
- Special Transportation based on disability;
- Work Readiness; Training, including tuition, related fees, and required textbooks for vocational programs and college;
- Tutor,
- Reader, and Note Taker services;
- Youth Services;
- Physical and mental restoration services;
- Medical care for acute conditions arising during the program;
- modifications to homes, vehicles and worksites;
- Job Development and Placement (called *"Intensive Supported Employment"* under ACCES-VR);
- Work Try Out & On the Job Training; Job Coaching;
- Occupational tools and equipment; Goods, inventory, equipment and supplies for self-employment;
- Occupational and business licenses.

(For more information, contact the local District Office or go to [ACCES-VR's website](#).)

Combined BH HCBS Individual Education and/or Employment Support and ACCES-VR EXAMPLE:

Carrie Ann's life role goal is to become employed as a Peer Support Counselor. In order to achieve this goal, Carrie Ann would like to pursue an education program and obtain the appropriate credentials for her goal.

Based on past education achievements, Carrie Ann and her Health Home Care Manager discuss enrollment at the local community college. The HHCM advises Carrie Ann that she is eligible to receive support from one or both the BH HCBS Education Support Services and ACCES-VR (as long as there is no duplication of services) to fully support her education goals. The HHCM explains to Carrie Ann that the BH HCBS Education Support Services will provide her with support related to her behavioral health barriers while she participates in educational activities. To support a positive outcome of her studies, the HCBS Education Specialist will teach Carrie Ann time and stress management techniques to navigate transportation, complete course work, participate in study group activities, and advocate for herself with professors and other academic authorities.

Based on the information provided by her Care Manager and BH HCBS Education Support Services provider, Carrie Ann decided that she will do best by receiving both BH HCBS Education Support Services to manage her time and stress level (which may trigger a relapse) and ACCES-VR services to fund tuition assistance, tutors, books, and test taking accommodations. Once Carrie Ann has met with her BH HCBS Education Specialist to determine scope, frequency and duration of her Individual Service Plan, she and the HCBS Education specialist will meet on campus or in the community. As the intent, scope, and interventions provided by BH HCBS and ACCES-VR is different, there is no duplication of services. Carrie Ann may choose to include her ACCES-VR Vocational Counselor and BH HCBS Education Support Services provider in Plan of Care meetings facilitated by her Health Home Care Manager in order to promote communication, collaboration, and integration of supports and services

If you have any questions regarding co-mingling of BH HCBS participants in a PROS program or Clubhouse/ Psychosocial Club, please contact Liam McNabb at omh.sm.co.HCBS-Application@omh.ny.gov, or call the OMH Rehabilitation Services Unit at 518-473-8561.