



Date: May 16, 2017

To: Community First Choice (CFC) Providers
Community Living Assistance and Supports Services (CLASS) Providers
Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Service Providers
Financial Management Services Agencies (FMSAs)
Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCCSAs)
Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program Providers
Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDAs)
Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Providers
Managed Care Service Coordinators and Service Managers
Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program Providers
Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 17-10 — Employment Services Web-Based Training

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has made updates to the [Employment First webpage](#) and has released a web-based Employment Services training.

Employment First Webpage

HHSC's [Employment First webpage](#) serves as a resource for employment services and other employment-related HHSC initiatives and efforts. The [Employment First webpage](#) has been updated with information important for those receiving services and service providers. The updates include a report on the Employment Pilot, available HHSC employment services training, and additional employment resources for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The [webpage can be found online](#).

Web-Based Training

HHSC has developed a free web-based Employment First initiative training series to enhance knowledge and improve the quality of employment services for persons with IDD across the state. Those who participate in service planning, including legally authorized representatives, family members, friends, nurses, behavior specialists, employment specialists, attendants, direct support professionals or anyone asked to be a member of the service planning team are encouraged to utilize the Employment Services training. The information in the training series may benefit individuals receiving services through many HHS programs, including

1915(c) waivers, STAR+PLUS, or services provided through local intellectual and developmental disability authorities.

Training topics include:

- What are employment assistance and supported employment?
- A step-by-step process to achieve positive employment outcomes.
- Why is competitive and integrated employment important?
- Working while receiving Social Security Disability benefits.
- Overview of Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- Contacts for additional training, resources, and assistance.

A link to this training can be found on the webpage *Doing Business with HHS* in the "Training Initiatives" section or by [clicking here](#).

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Haley Turner
Deputy Associate Commissioner
IDD & Behavioral Health Services

[signature on file]

Emily Zalkovsky
Deputy Associate Commissioner
Medicaid and CHIP Services