

## **Whatcom County Pathways to Employment: Provider Qualifications**

Whatcom County has an open qualified provider process for *Pathways to Employment* services. Certification as a qualified provider is required to be eligible for public *Pathways to Employment* funds through Whatcom County. Qualified providers must be able to meet the requirements of the Whatcom County Quality Assurance and Evaluation Tool, and submit to an onsite monitoring visit to demonstrate compliance. To maintain qualified status, the provider must successfully complete a monitoring every 2 years. All corrective action on the monitoring report must be completed prior to contracting for another year.

### **Background**

Pathways to Employment services are provided to adults with developmental disabilities ages 21 years and older. Services are designed to help individuals obtain or maintain individualized, integrated employment in the community. Service goals include:

- Establish employment opportunities for participants within local business and industry regardless of their level of disability.
- Develop relationships with and support from co-workers without disabilities.
- Earn sufficient wages to meet participant identified goals and increase self-sufficiency.
- Develop job and life skills necessary to lead a more independent life.
- Make measureable progress toward the individual's employment goals, including job advancement.

Service types include both individualized employment (one person, one job) as well as group supported employment (supervised employment and training opportunities for small groups of participants within local business, industry and community settings.)

### **Funding**

The County contracts with qualified providers for Pathways to Employment services using Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DSHS/DDA) funding.

Services are paid on an hourly fee for service basis. Clients must be authorized for services through their DSHS/DDA case resource manager.

### **Qualification Requirements**

Qualified providers must be able to meet the requirements of the [DSHS/DDA Policy 6.13](#) "Provider Qualifications for Employment and Day Program Services" including the [County Guidelines](#).

Providers must submit to an initial onsite monitoring to verify qualifications and will receive follow-up monitoring within the first year to ensure compliance with the County Program Agreement for the current biennium and the [DSHS/DDA Criteria for Evaluation](#). All new providers will receive a one year provisional contract, with renewal dependent on the outcome of monitoring.

*Interested parties may request a meeting with Jessica Lee, Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist, to review the Provider Agreement, discuss qualification requirements and present proposed service structure.*  
[jlee@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:jlee@whatcomcounty.us) 360-778-6047.