



## State of Wisconsin

### Department of Health Services

#### Prevocational Services: Frequently Asked Questions

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Jim Doyle, Governor

Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

You may have heard about some possible changes in how Family Care members will get employment services in work centers. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is working with the work centers and advocates for people with disabilities to agree on how prevocational services should be provided to Family Care members. Meanwhile, we hope the following set of questions and answers will address any concerns you might have.

Q: *What changes are being considered for prevocational services?*

A: As part of our renewal of the Family Care program, the Department is updating the definition of prevocational services. This definition clarifies that prevocational services are a ‘stepping stone’ to community based employment. The definition also recognizes that developing employment opportunities in the community that meet each individual’s unique preferences and needs will take time, and the pace at which community employment opportunities are explored and developed will vary with each individual. This is why we left the definition flexible.

Q: *What does this definition change mean for me and my family?*

A: During your regular care planning meetings with your care team, which you have every six months, you will be asked about your life goals and may be encouraged to consider options for how community-based employment can contribute to your goals. You can continue to receive prevocational training, particularly if community-based employment is not immediately available or is not a longer-term goal for you.

Q: *Will prevocational services for Family Care members be ended immediately on January 2010 when the new definition becomes effective?*

A: No, prevocational services in Family Care will not be ended at the start of 2010. Prevocational services will continue to be available for people in Family Care.

Q: *Will there be a time limit as to how long I can get prevocational services in Family Care? For example, will my prevocational services end after 6 months or 1 year?*

A: No, there will be no automatic cut-off of prevocational services for a Family Care member after a certain period of time. The amount of prevocational services used by Family Care members will vary, based on each individual’s personal needs and goals.

Q: *Will a government or Family Care official decide when I have to stop receiving prevocational services?*

A: No. Just like in all care planning decisions in Family Care, you the member will be involved, together with your care team, in making decisions as to whether to continue to pursue prevocational services or whether to pursue other community-based employment options. Your interdisciplinary team staff will work to ensure that you are aware of all pre-vocational and employment options that are available.

Q: *Will I be able to return to prevocational services if I try a community job and it doesn't work out?*

A: Yes. You will be able to return to prevocational services if the community job ends for any reason. If your community-based job ends, you would work closely with your care team and discuss the possibility of exploring other community-based employment options or returning to prevocational services.

Q: *If I get a part-time job in the community, can I also go to prevocational services for the rest of my day?*

A: Yes, you can have a community-based job and be involved in prevocational services at the same time.

Q: *I am interested in a community-based job, but there are none available right now. Can I stay in prevocational services until a job is available for me in my community?*

A: Yes, you can continue using prevocational services until a community-based job consistent with your interests and goals is available. Prevocational and supported employment providers are working with local businesses to help develop community employment opportunities for people with disabilities, including pursuing creative and new ways to structure jobs.

Q: *Why are changes being considered for prevocational services?*

A: The goal of Family Care is to provide a high quality of life for people with long term care needs by enabling members to be involved as fully as possible in their communities. The changes that are being considered are designed to offer Family Care members the opportunity to explore and participate in community-based jobs. Community-based employment options enable individuals to contribute to and be involved in their communities in meaningful and satisfying ways.