

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Policy 2.28 Enabling Community Employment Through Transportation Support	Effective: 2/27/24
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ENABLING COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT THROUGH TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

POLICY

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD) is committed to providing services in a manner that respects the objectives of Employment First. Employment First is founded on the belief that community employment is the first and preferred option for all people with developmental disabilities. To that end, SCBDD boasts a history of aggressively offering community employment services and inviting individuals to adopt that vocational vision as their own.

Roughly three fourths of the individuals participating in community employment are enrolled on Level One (HCBS) Medicaid Waivers. Many, however, are not because they do not qualify for adult services refinancing or do not meet the necessary level of care required for enrollment. Those enrolled on waivers have access to non-medical transportation services which can be used to pay for transportation to and/or from work.

Individuals working in the community who are not enrolled on waivers do not have funded transportation. For many, this does not represent an obstacle. This is often because they drive independently, have family who provide transportation, or can utilize public transportation. However, some do not have any of these resources or opportunities.

Therefore, SCBDD has developed a protocol to allow individuals whose ability to work is jeopardized because they do not have access to transportation, to be referred for consideration of support. This referral process begins with an assessment by the SSA Department and concludes with a recommendation about the type of support that can resolve the issue. The process requires that recommended supports are based on those that are the most cost effective and engage the individual's independent abilities. The process also assumes that support(s) from SCBDD can be transitional in many cases and ultimately become unnecessary.

Historical Resolution Information		Reviewer(s):
Date	Resolution Number	Director of SSA Superintendent
12/19/17	12-50-17	
02/23/21	02-10-21	
2/27/24	02-16-24	

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PROCEDURE

- Individuals requesting assistance with transportation to community employment will be identified through the Service and Support Administration Unit. The assigned SSA will be responsible to assess the individual's needs and identify the most independent and cost effective available source of transportation.
- This assessment will be completed at minimum on an annual basis.
- The assigned SSA will assist the individual and/or the individual's support(s) in arranging for the transportation. The assigned SSA will complete the appropriate paperwork to authorize the appropriate payment for services and update the person's Individual Service Plan (ISP).
- The individual/guardian will receive County Board Complaint Resolution notification along with the decision.
- In the event that the SSA assessment identifies a need for transportation support that exceeds the cost of the non-federal share of non-medical transportation (NMT) for an individual enrolled on a Medicaid Waiver (40% of the NMT budget), the SSA will submit this individual for review for Waiver Enrollment and Policy 2.19 Utilizing County Tax Dollars As A Last Resort will apply as appropriate.