**TWC-VR Rate Increase Frequently Asked Questions**

Originally published: October 1, 2021

This FAQ provides information on the rate increases implemented on 10-01-21.

**Question 1: What services are included in the TWC-VR rate increases effective 10-01-21?**

**Answer:**

The following services rates have an increase as of 10-1-21.

* Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Supports
* Bundled Job Placement Services
* Environmental Work Assessment
* Job Skills Training
* Non-Bundled Job Placement Services
* Personal Social Adjustment Training
* Pre-ETS
  + Career Exploration Counseling
  + Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities
  + Self-Advocacy
  + Work-Based Learning
  + Workplace Readiness Training
* Premiums:
  + Autism
  + Criminal Background
  + Deaf Service
  + Professional Placement
  + Wage
* Project SEARCH
* Self-Employment Services:
* Supported Employment Services
* Supported Self-Employment Services
* Vocational Adjustment Training Courses
* Vocational Evaluation
* Vocational Evaluation-Situational Assessments and Work Samples
* Work Adjustment Training
* Work Experience Services

**Question 2: Will a provider need a new service authorization with the new rate increase?**

**Answer:**

Yes, for services provided or outcomes such as the completed VAT course or the 5th day of employment achieved on or after 10-01-21, a new service authorization will need to be issued. For services or outcomes achieved prior to 10-01-21 the original service authorization issued when invoicing. The provider will need to maintain **both** service authorizations in their customer’s file.

**Question 3: What do I do if I have not received a new/replacement Service Authorization?**

**Answer:**

First, contact the customer’s VR Counselor or Rehab Assistant and request a new or replacement service authorization. If you are not successful in obtaining an updated service authorization contact the management in the local unit.

Unless specified in policy, no approvals are required to issue the new/replacement service authorization related to the rate increase.

**Question 4: What is the service date of an outcome-based service?**

**Answer:**

For outcome-based services such as Vocational Adjustment Training, Job Placement, Supported Employment or Self Employment, the date the Outcomes Required for Payment are achieved, as outlined in the Standards for Providers, is the date of service. For example, for Benchmark A in Job Placement, the 5th day of employment is the service date.

**Question 5: Where can I find the new published rates?**

**Answer:**

The VR-SFP chapters will include the new rates in the fee table on 10-01-21.

**Question 6: Why weren’t all rates in the Standards for Providers increased?**

**Answer:**

Most Employment Service rates have not been updated since 2010 whereas other VR-SFP rates have been updated more recently.

However, TWC is establishing a contract to perform an analysis of the fee structures and rates used in many other TWC-VR Standards contracts. TWC-VR recognizes that the compensation made to providers must be competitive.

**Question 7: How was the increase determined?**

**Answer:**

TWC’s Labor Market and Career Information department was consulted to identify the Employment Cost Index (ECI), a quarterly economic series detailing the changes in the costs of labor for businesses in the U.S. economy, is the most applicable index for calculating changes in labor costs to employers over time. The ECI, prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the U.S. Department of Labor, measures the change in the cost of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries. The change in the ECI from 2010–2021 (Quarter 1) is 22.5 percent. Therefore, we increased the rates by 22.5 percent.