

Frequently Asked Questions about the OhioMHAS Employment Rule

Q. What is integrated competitive employment?

A. Integrated competitive employment is work in the competitive labor market that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis in an integrated setting and for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without a disability in a setting typically found in the community in which consumers interact with individuals who do not have a disability, other than service providers.

Q. If I am providing supported employment services consisting of approved activities, can I still use the term “supported employment”

A. Yes. Supported Employment is an overarching evidence based practice that consists of all the activities listed in section B of the employment rule.

Q. How does my agency become a Qualified IPS Provider?

A. To begin the process of becoming a Qualified IPS Provider, please contact the current OhioMHAS approved fidelity reviewer and declare your interest in becoming a Qualified Provider. At this time, the vendor is Case Western Reserve University’s Center for Evidence Based Practices. Case Western staff will talk with your agency and schedule a readiness assessment. Upon completion, they will offer suggestions to prepare your organization to become a qualified provider. Once possible changes have been made, Case Western staff will provide training and technical assistance to help your agency implement IPS. A baseline fidelity review will be conducted at which point you may apply to be a provisional Qualified IPS Provider. Case Western staff will continue to provide training, consultation, and technical support.

Q. What happens if I score below the minimum necessary fidelity score to be considered a Qualified IPS Provider?

A. In the event a provider fails to achieve the required minimum fidelity score, the provider will receive technical assistance to address areas recommended for improvement as identified in the fidelity review by an OhioMHAS approved fidelity reviewer. If the subsequent fidelity review results in a score of less than the required minimum, the provider will no longer be designated as a qualified IPS provider until their fidelity score again reaches the minimum.

Q. Who is the current vendor designated as the OhioMHAS approved fidelity reviewer?

A. Case Western Reserve University Center for Evidence Based Practices

Q. Why is IPS such an area of focus?

A. About 66% of people who receive supported employment services become competitively employed compared to less than 25% of those receiving traditional vocational services. (Bond, Drake, & Becker, 2008).

Bond, G. R., Drake, R. E., & Becker, D. R. (2008). An update on randomized controlled trials of evidence-based supported employment. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 31(4), 280-290.