



**To:** Provider Associations  
Voluntary Provider Agency Executive Directors  
DDSOD Directors  
DDRO Directors  
IBR Director  
Commissioner's Advisory Council  
DDPC Consumer Caucus  
OPWDD Required Regulations Mailing List

**From:** OPWDD Counsel Office, Bureau of Policy and Regulatory Affairs

**Date:** March 15, 2016

**Re:** Proposed Regulations – Changes to the Pathway to Employment Service

**Comments Due: Monday, May 9, 2016**

**Suggested distribution:**

Agency Administrators and Managers  
Agency Financial Officers  
Service Coordinators and Supervisors

**Background:**

On July 1, 2014, OPWDD established the Pathway to Employment service. Pathway to Employment is a person-centered, comprehensive employment planning and support service that assists individuals with developmental disabilities in obtaining competitive employment. Existing regulations in 14 NYCRR Subpart 635-10 outline the requirements for service delivery and reimbursement.

**Purpose:**

OPWDD has filed proposed regulations that make changes to requirements for service delivery and reimbursement of the Pathway to Employment service. Upon monitoring and evaluating this

service since its implementation, OPWDD has determined that the proposed amendments are necessary in order to promote and achieve its vision for the service.

Specifically, the proposed regulations make changes concerning activities allowed under the service, group size and billable service time, and the development and dissemination of the career vocational plan. The proposed amendments also clarify that delivery of the Pathway to Employment service and prevocational services in sheltered workshops, certified by OPWDD as day training programs, is prohibited. Additionally, the amendments remove the fees for the Pathway to Employment service, as the authority to regulate the fees has been transferred to the Department of Health. The amendments make other minor changes to ensure consistent usage of terminology throughout the regulations.

The full text of the proposed regulations is posted on the OPWDD website at [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov). Look under "Regulations & Guidance."

**Public comments:**

The deadline for public comment for the proposed regulations is the close of business on Monday, May 9, 2016. Written comments should be addressed to:

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For questions regarding specific application of these regulations, please contact Ceylane Meyers Ruff by telephone at 518-473-9697 or email at [ceylane.meyersruff@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:ceylane.meyersruff@opwdd.ny.gov).

Thank you.