



COMMISSIONER  
Chris Traylor

September 7, 2010

To: Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with MR (ICFs/MR)  
State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)  
Mental Retardation Authorities (MRAs)

Subject: Information Letter 10-122  
Referral to DARS for Individuals Who Are Interested in Employment

The purpose of this letter is to convey a change in policy. Historically, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) providers serving individuals for whom competitive employment is an identified goal were required by the state to refer those individuals to the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to apply for vocational rehabilitation services. For individuals determined by DARS to be ineligible for services, the DADS provider was required to obtain a copy of a letter of denial before assisting an individual to locate competitive employment.

As of the date of this letter, ICF/MR providers, including SSLCs, and MRAs using general revenue funds have the *option* to refer an individual with a competitive employment goal to DARS for employment services. If the individual does apply with DARS, the ICF/MR provider or MRA should follow the coordination processes outlined in IL 08-26. If not, then the ICF/MR provider or MRA should proceed with assisting the individual to pursue (and maintain) their employment goal, similar to the way the provider would assist in the achievement of any other habilitation goal.

This change applies only to ICF/MR providers and MRAs using general revenue funds for the individual, as federal rule does not allow the same flexibility for 1915(c) waiver providers. Waiver providers are still required to refer individuals to DARS before assisting those individuals with locating competitive employment.

Please take a moment to review IL 08-26 (dated March 18, 2008) as a refresher on DADS and DARS roles, regardless of the requirement to refer, pertaining to employment services.

Please contact Corliss Powell at (512) 438-2430 or Adrienne Nevola at (512) 438-3641 with any questions.

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Teresa Richard  
Interim Director  
Center for Policy and Innovation

TR: cp