



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

TRANSITION FROM ACCES-VR TO OPWDD EXTENDED SEMP

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIRECTORS

July 1, 2026

TRANSITION FROM ACCES-VR TO OPWDD EXTENDED SEMP SERVICES UPDATES

Based on collaborative discussions with ACCES-VR, NYS Commission for the Blind and OPWDD about the challenges related to funding transitions from ACCES-VR to OPWDD Extended SEMP for people who have a job and meet the ACCES-VR stabilization criteria, ACCES-VR made changes in the 2024 Core Rehabilitation Services Guide. These changes address the prior gap in funding during the transition and better support job retention.

Upon review of the changes to the ACCES-VR 2024 Core Rehabilitation Services Guide, OPWDD may transition people from ACCES-VR to OPWDD Extended SEMP funding after the established stabilization date.

ACCES-VR STABILIZATION

As listed in the ACCES-VR Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Program Guide (2024-2028):

Stabilization is identified when the customer, employer (when the customer has disclosed disability information), the vendor, and the ACCES-VR counselor agree the customer is able to perform the essential functions of the job (with or without reasonable accommodations), that natural supports as needed in and outside of the job have been developed, and the customer has sustained their lowest level of supports required to maintain current employment.

The date of stabilization marks the end of Supported Employment Intensive Services and the start of Supported Employment Extended Services.

TRANSITION FROM ACCES-VR TO OPWDD EXTENDED SEMP

ACCES-VR's Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Program Guide (2024-2028) has new language addressing Supported Employment Extended Services.

- Once stabilization has been achieved, vendors are expected to utilize the appropriate supported employment extended funding source.
- OPWDD eligible people that are authorized for SEMP may seamlessly transition to OPWDD Extended SEMP. It is no longer necessary to wait 90 days from the date of ACCES-VR stabilization.
- ACCES-VR Extended Supported Employment Services may be approved for customers who are not eligible for or are awaiting eligibility determination for another extended funding source. Please discuss with the ACCES-VR Counselor to request more time if needed.

TRANSITION FROM ACCES-VR EXTENDED SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT TO OPWDD EXTENDED SEMP

- Vendors that document and bill ACCES-VR Extended Support Employment Services after the person has stabilized in a job, must wait until the first day of the new month to transition the person to OPWDD and begin billing OPWDD Extended SEMP.
- ACCES-VR Extended Supported Employment funding is a monthly service fee that requires at least 2 monthly contacts, whereas OPWDD Extended SEMP is billed hourly.

ACCES-VR 90 DAY OUTCOME PAYMENT

ACCES-VR issues a 90-day outcome payment to vendors if the customer they served completed intensive supported employment services, transitioned to extended services, and maintained stable employment for a minimum of 90 days after the date of their stabilization.

ACCES-VR's current Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Program Guide (2024-2028) states:

- This is an outcome-based service that provides a milestone payment to the vendor when the customer has achieved a minimum of 90 days of employment post stabilization. Vendor must continue to have on-going contact with the customer and, where it is not contraindicated, the employer.
- The vendor must provide ACCES-VR verification of the Supported Employment extended funding source and the documentation needed by ACCES-VR to record a successful employment outcome (Employment Outcome Policy) for the customer.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Supported Employment section on the SART indicates that “*The person is enrolled in ACCES-VR and their supports and funding will transition to OPWDD SEMP.*”

Timely service authorization and access is among the Employment First priorities identified.

In most cases, people transition from Intensive Supported Employment to Extended Supported Employment with the same agency.

It is an agency’s responsibility to monitor the details of the person’s transition to ensure that claims are properly submitted based on the person’s status.

The EMCA unit will be providing additional training on this topic with Employment First implementation and the release of the updated Memorandum of Interagency Agreement between OPWDD and ACCES-VR.

Please let us know if you have questions in the interim.

OPWDD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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EMCA/ETP DIRECTORY

<https://eleversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/ETP-EMCA-AT-A-GLANCE-EXTERNAL-Eleversity-copy-6.26.pdf>



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