
OPWDD Employment Services Directors Meeting



October 1, 2026



STRONGER TOGETHER

PEOPLE
OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNITY

Welcome

Before we begin, here are a few things to know.



3-HOUR BILLABLE SESSION

This session is eligible for 3 billable hours.



INNOVATIONS CREDITS

Earn Innovations training credit.



PLEASE MUTE YOUR LINE

Keep your microphone muted unless speaking.



USE CHAT FOR QUESTIONS

Type questions or comments in the chat.

Thank you for being here — we're glad you joined us.

Capturing Attendance



To receive credit, please remember:

01

STAY FOR THE FULL SESSION

This session runs from 1:00–4:00.
You must stay for the full session to receive credit.

02

BE REGISTERED

You must be registered with Eleversity for this session to receive credit.

03

SHARING A DEVICE?

Add the names of all attendees to the chat so everyone can receive credit.

04

JOINING BY PHONE?

Make sure your name is displayed. If no name is shown, we cannot verify attendance for credit.

Attendance must be verifiable for Innovations credit.

Agenda

Today's Employment Services Directors Meeting

01

Employment and Meaningful Community Activities (EMCA) Updates

02

Employment Tracking System (ETS) Guide

03

Request to Bill SEMP Services Improvements

04

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Statewide Events

05

Eleversity Training Opportunities

Employment and Meaningful Community Activities (EMCA) Updates



Employment First Updates



OPWDD Goals in the Statewide E1st Implementation Plan

- Employment First service planning and employment expectations
- Modernize and re-balance day services to increase community engagement, skill development and career exploration
- Timely authorization of and access to vocational and employment services

Additional Priority Outcomes:

- Increase the number of providers offering the full array of vocational and employment services
- Employment First training for CCO's and other constituents
- Increase provider capacity through training and flexible services
- Increase business engagement and public relations
- Improve vocational and employment services for people with developmental and mental health disabilities
- Improve data tracking and reporting related to employment outcomes and contributing factors

Employment First Updates



Coming soon:

- Priority outcomes for all state agencies will be shared at the Disability Rights and Employment Awareness Month (DREAM) Symposium by the NYS Office of the Chief Disability Officer
- Statewide Employment 1st Annual Report should be available in 2027
- New Day Habilitation trainings and best practice sessions
- Customized Employment training and resources
- Provider survey to identify job development best practices
- Provider survey to identify challenges with self-directed SEMP
- Brief instructional guides for Care Managers will be released to support service planning for people who are under engaged in the community or unemployed
- Continue streamlining of documentation and reporting requirements

Community Engagement Requirements for Medicaid



Effective January 1, 2027

Work Requirements for Medicaid Coverage

Some adults ages 19–64 will have new work requirements for Medicaid coverage and may need to show that they are working, in school, in job training, or volunteering. These requirements will be reviewed when you apply or renew your coverage.

Learn more about work requirements for Medicaid coverage here. Continue to check resources for changes.

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/stay-covered>

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/stay-covered#workrequirements>

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/stay-connected>

OPWDD's Financial Benefits & Entitlements Assistance & Management (FBEAM) Division addressed this topic during the Quarterly Care Managers Conference held on September 9, 2026 and is taking the lead.

What is Community Engagement for Medicaid Requirements?

The requirement can be fulfilled through one of these options:

A

Earn a household income of at least

\$580

in a month or be a seasonal worker with a 6-month average income $\geq$ \$580

B

Complete
80 hours

of any combination of these approved activities in a month:



Work - traditional or self-employment



Participation in community service



Participation in a work/job training program



Active enrollment in an educational program
(must be enrolled at least half-time if using education as a standalone activity)

C

Earn income AND complete hours of the approved activities

Convert income to hours using the federal minimum wage to determine how many hours of approved activities are needed to reach 80 total

Who is affected by Community Engagement Medicaid Requirements?



- Expansion Population/Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)
 - Ages 19-64
 - Income over 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/publications/docs/gis/2_6ma05_att1.pdf
- 5% people affected of 135,000 OPWDD eligible people with Medicaid

People who qualify for Medicaid due to Age, Visual Impairment or Disability and earn income over 100% FPL are not included in the expansion population.

Who Is NOT Affected by Community Engagement Medicaid Requirements?

- Age 18 and younger
- Age 65 and older
- Entitled to or receiving Medicare Part A and/or Part B
- Disability determination on file with Medicaid (SSI/SSDI/VA, MBI-WPD)
- Specified excluded individuals (see regulations)
- Incarcerated currently or in the prior three months
- Short-term hardship exceptions
 - In hospital, nursing facility, ICF, psychiatric center
 - Medical care for serious/complex condition, care not offered locally
 - Federally declared disaster or emergency area
 - Very high unemployment area (8% or 1.5x national average)

National Expansion of Employment Opportunities (NEON)



New York State has been chosen for the fourth consecutive year to receive the NEON federal technical assistance grant.

The current NEON cohort will focus on deepening state agency partnerships and supporting efforts leading to sustainable employment outcomes for people with mental health conditions.

NYS Partners:

- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
- Office of Mental Health (OMH)
- Office of the Chief Disability Officer (CDO)
- ACCES-VR and the Commission for the Blind
- Department of Labor (DOL)

NEON Stakeholder Focus Group Pre-DREAM Symposium



Provider organizations, state agency representatives and provider associations will convene on October 13th to discuss the following 2026-2028 NEON objectives and provide feedback and recommendations:

Objective 1: Create a Statewide Strategic Business Engagement Plan to be implemented by the Office of the Chief Disability Officer Employment First Director in partnership with essential New York state agencies and stakeholders.

Objective 2: Define a successful and robust employment program serving people with serious mental illness, neurodevelopmental disabilities, co-occurring conditions and complex disabilities.

Objective 3: Research and begin development of a specialized training program for staff on how to foster a supportive work environment that accommodates the needs of people with serious mental illness, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and co-occurring conditions.

New York Employment Services System (NYESS) Updates



- Michael Dalto, Subject Matter Expert is supporting the efforts of the NEON cohort to obtain information on New York State's current benefits planning infrastructure.
- Your responses to the NYS Benefits Planning Infrastructure Survey administered by the Office of Mental will help inform the recommendations for improvement which will be outlined in the implementation plan.
- Michael Dalto is lending his expertise to review, update and deliver benefits training to a variety of audiences.
- Providers currently offering benefits planning services may join NYESS' Work Incentive Network (WIN) directory, attend trainings at no cost, and receive CEU credits to maintain their credentials.
- NYESS is interested in offering training to providers that do not currently offer benefits planning and may be able to offer scholarships for Employment Support Professionals to become certified Benefits Planners.

NYESS Benefits Training



- The Office of Mental Health (OMH) introduced a Benefits Training Campaign in January 2026 targeted at people with disabilities, their families and advocates, as well as OMH providers.
 - 2010 people trained January 2026 – September 2026
 - 120 of whom are beneficiaries of public benefit(s)
 - 619 of whom are families or advocates
- Eleversity Training | Public Benefits and Financial Literacy: What do you need to know?
 - 93 people trained

SAVE THE DATE – UPCOMING NYESS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

[Benefits 101 October 13, 2026](#) (1 PM – 3 PM)

<https://nyess.ny.gov/learning-center>

Customized Employment



- This summer, staff from OPWDD's Employment and Meaningful Community Activities (EMCA) unit and our training partner, Eleversity, received training on Customized Employment from Abby Cooper, one of New York State's NEON consultants.
- The Customized Employment training consisted of 3 interactive webinars and 1 in person session.
- The curricula included an overview of Customized Employment (CE) and how this approach to supported employment services can enhance Discovery and Job Development for people, including those involved in Self-Employment.
- Takeaways from the training will inform the technical assistance provided by OPWDD and the professional development offered by Eleversity, both of which will help agencies have fidelity to the model and/or improve their general practices.
- The Employment Training Program (ETP) will continue to offer funding and enhance tools to support Customized Employment and quality supported employment services for people with higher support needs.

Employment Training Program (ETP)

Customized Employment Pilot

- The Employment Training Program (ETP) services strongly align with Customized Employment strategies. ETP may require some changes and flexibilities to adapt to Customized Employment. ETP staff are working with subject matter experts to learn and adapt ETP processes and expected outcomes.
- ETP recently started a pilot project to learn how the ETP process may differ for Customized Employment and to support agencies that positioned to offer this supported employment strategy.
- If an agency has been formally trained in Customize Employment strategies, some of the agency's Customized Employment documents and processes may be adapted within the Employment Training Program (as approved upfront by the ETP Supervisor).
- Contact your Employment Training Program (ETP) Supervisor to discuss the ETP Customized Employment Pilot.
- The EMCA/ETP Supervisor Directory is available under <https://eiversity.org/resources/opwdd-innovations-resources/> under General Resources.

Employment Training Program (ETP)

Customized Employment Pilot

- Discovery Timeline
 - Begin immediately after ETP approval
 - Target completion: 3–4 months
 - If expected to exceed 6 months → Pathway to Employment
- Monitoring & Review
 - Supervisors use the ETP Discovery Review Tool
 - Complete Discovery Supervisor Review Form
- At Discovery Completion
 - Use ETP Job Development (JD) Plan
 - Use Vocational Plan only when JD is not recommended
- Reporting
 - ETPS invited to CE meetings and receives minutes
 - Monthly Discovery/JD Updates required
 - Quarterly Progress Reports once employed
- Required ETPS Meetings
 - Meeting 1: Check-In / CE Meetings
 - Meeting 2: ETP Placement Meeting

Provider Surveys



Gaining the Provider Perspective

Job Development

- Collaboration: Cornell Yang-Tan Institute
- Conduct Interviews: Post pandemic best practices for Job Developers with successful outcomes
- Data: New jobs obtained by people receiving OPWDD SEMP supports across NYS
- Report Out: Outcomes will inform future trainings and presentations for provider agencies

Self-Direction

- Collaboration: NY Alliance and OPWDD Self Direction Unit
- Distribute Survey: Fiscal Intermediaries surveyed on Self Directed Employment Services
- Report Out: Outcomes will inform statewide service provision and guidance

Interagency Partnership Update



- Regional representatives from OPWDD and ACCES-VR met on September 10th to align our efforts for National Disabilities Awareness Month (NDEAM) this month and to discuss progress related to education and outreach, requests for braided services and joint technical assistance to providers.
- OPWDD and ACCES-VR is receiving technical assistance through national consultants regarding agreements between our agencies to better support shared customers, particularly those aligned with customized employment.
- We look forward to sharing the updated Memorandum of Interagency Agreement (MOIA) and any corresponding attachments once finalized.
- If you have questions about which non-duplicative OPWDD and ACCES-VR services may be provided to the same person concurrently, contact your OPWDD Regional Liaison. The EMCA/ETP Supervisor Directory is available on the Eleversity website under General Resources.

Transition from ACCES-VR to OPWDD Extended SEMP



Reminder

- ACCES-VR's Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Program Guide (2024-2028) has 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 and enrolled in 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.

Day Habilitation Training Through Eleversity



Community Engagement And Career Planning

In 2025, OPWDD introduced a day habilitation specific training for staff and managers through OPWDD's training provider, Eleversity titled, “**Community Engagement and Career Planning**”.

- **DSP Training:** this training explores how Day Habilitation services can foster community engagement and career planning & learn to structure activities that promote independence, self-advocacy, and skill development.
- **Manager Training:** this training helps to develop strategies and structure activities to build skills, increase community engagement, explore careers, and leverage a variety of OPWDD services to support person-centered outcomes.

Community Engagement And Career Planning Training



Modules available on Eleversity

The training introduced new **Day Habilitation Skills Training Modules** and a **Day Habilitation Community Skills Assessment**. These tools are optional but well received. The assessment is important in determining a person's progress and developing next steps for community engagement and career exploration.

Each participant training module contains several lessons and is based on current allowable services.

Module subjects include:

- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Problem Solving
- ☐ Social Skills and Relationships
- ☐ Career Exploration
- ☐ Community Participation
- ☐ Traveling
- ☐ Self Advocacy
- ☐ Managing Stress
- ☐ Personal Presentation

Learning
Today.
Brighter
Tomorrows.

— Day Habilitation — Microlearning Opportunities

Coming Soon!

Innovations in Employment Supports

Eleversity
NEXT-LEVEL WORKFORCE EDUCATION

LEARN
GROW
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



What's new?



Microlearning events will be
1 hour in duration.



Zoom meetings will open
15 minutes prior to session start
to assist with technical needs.



Opportunities will be offered
at different times throughout
a month.



What is the **same**?

Same great learning experience!



Eleversity Account and Registration

Learners must have an Eleversity account and be registered for an event.



Required Technology

Use a laptop, desktop or tablet, with microphone and speakers.
(No cell phones for video)



Be On Time

Be on time and stay for the entire event, and stay focused on training.



Engage and Connect

Engage, share ideas, ask questions, network.

What supports or tools would help you apply this information with your team?

Participants highlighted clarity, collaboration, practical tools, and reconnecting teams to the “why.”



*Stronger
Teams
Brighter
Futures*

DSP

“Getting a clearer view of what day habilitation can look like—and understanding the importance of the people we support.”

DSP

“This is my first time working in this field. I can use this information to help me and my coworkers.”

DHM

“Collaborative sessions between employees at different agencies would be very helpful. I’m glad I had that opportunity today.”

DHM

“I’m going to bring the “why” back to my team—why we do this, and why it is about the specific individual.”



Design implication: Keep microlearning practical, easy to share with teams, and connected to person-centered purpose.

Community Engagement

Building Belonging,
Discovery, and Future Possibilities



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Teaching Through
Everyday Experiences





Assessing Skills in the Community

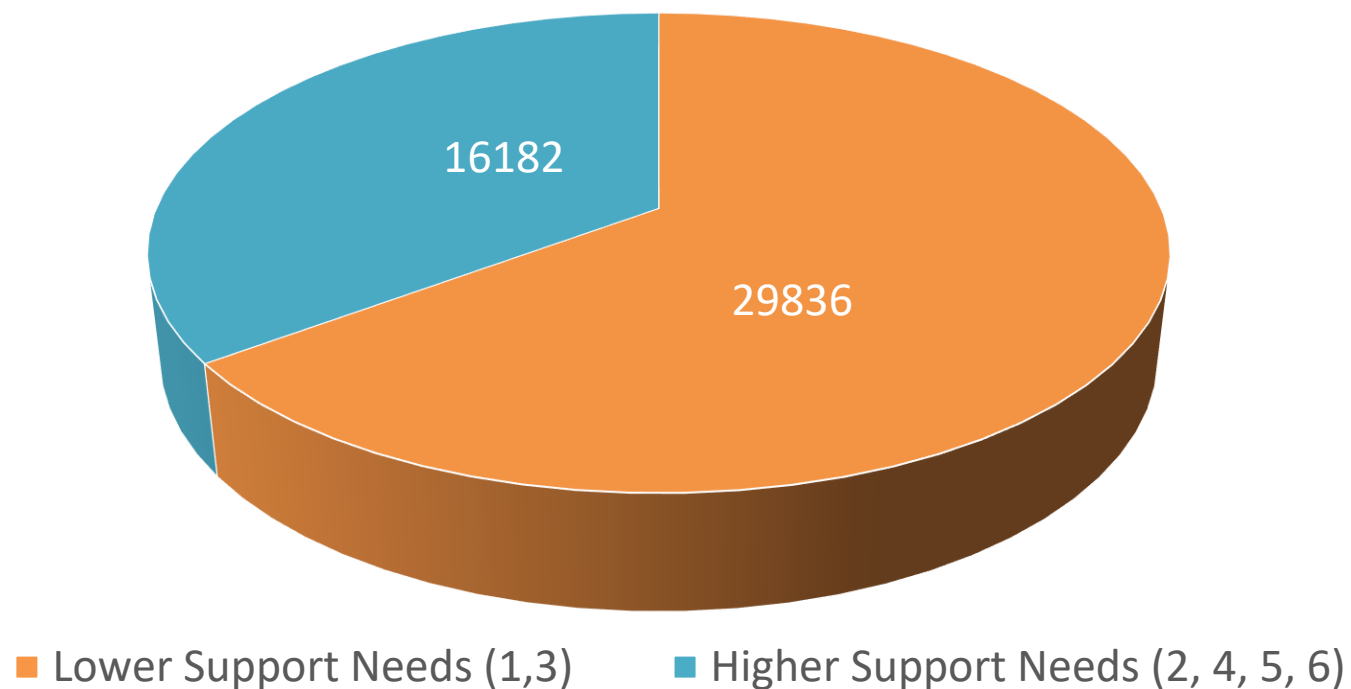


Identifying Strengths,
Supports, and Next Steps



Day Habilitation Enrollments by Support Levels

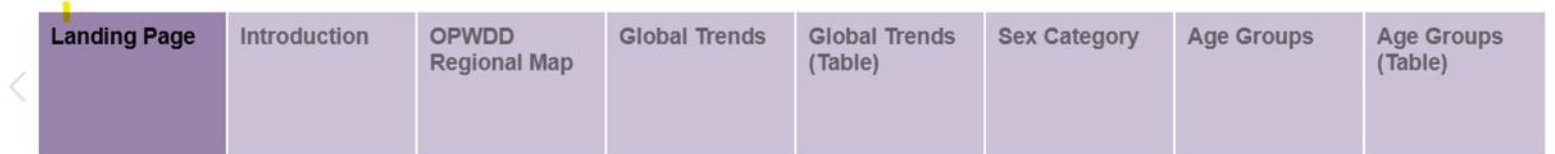
Day Habilitation Enrollments, June 2024
Support Levels Identified by ISPM Scores



Regional Data Story for Strategic Planning

REGIONAL DATA STORY

OPWDD Medicaid Utilization Regional Storyboard



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

Welcome to the OPWDD Public Medicaid Expenditures Regional Storyboard

Use the tabs at the top of the screen to navigate through the
storyboard.

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/data/regional-data-story-strategic-planning>

Regional Data Story for Strategic Planning

Explore your
region's data!

Overview

The OPWDD Medicaid Expenditures Regional Story provides information on services and supports delivered to people with developmental disabilities through a series of dashboards. The OPWDD Medicaid Expenditures Regional Story provides data on total expenditures, average expenditures, and total utilization by individual characteristics (e.g., region, age group), service characteristics (e.g., service type) and agency.

OPWDD is committed to ensuring that this website is accessible to everyone. If you have any questions about the accessibility of this site, or if you cannot access the material on our website, please contact info@opwdd.ny.gov. Please let us know the nature of your accessibility problem and the web address of the requested information.

Helpful Tip: Click the square in the bottom right corner of the storyboard to view the storyboard in full screen.

REGIONAL DATA STORY

OPWDD Medicaid Utilization Regional Storyboard



Select Region:

Region 3

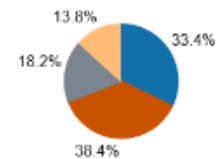
Select Year (7/1 - 6/30):

2024

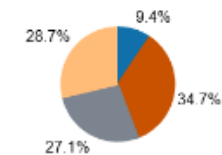
Utilization of OPWDD Medicaid Services by Age: Region 3 in 2024

Age Group	Total Individuals		Total Payments		Average Payment per Individual		Median Payment	
Children (00-20)		9,075		\$219,565,837		\$24,195		\$10,222
Adults (21-39)		10,425		\$807,196,912		\$77,429		\$43,756
Adults (40-59)		4,937		\$630,073,401		\$127,623		\$139,363
Seniors (60+)		3,748		\$666,740,993		\$177,892		\$174,483

Total Individuals Percent of Total: Region 3 in 2024
Hover on the pie chart to see the breakdown by Sex Category for each age group.

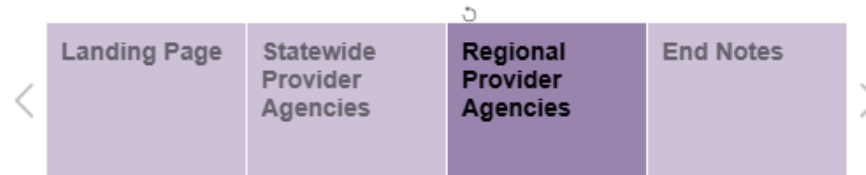


Total Payments Percent of Total: Region 3 in 2024



Explore your
region's data!

OPWDD Provider Agencies Storyboard



Select Region:

REGION 5

Provider Agencies with Recipient Counts by Service Category (REGION 5, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)

(An agency must have at least 20 Medicaid recipients to appear on this list.)

Search by Provider Name

	OPWDD Service Category									Grand Total
	Certified Residential	Structured Day Programs	Community Habilitation	Care Coordination	Respite	Employment Supports	Services Supporting Self-Direction	Clinical Supports	Managed Care	
A-1 UNIVERSAL CARE, INC.			117		36		162			187
A.C.L.D.	413	487	48		37	248		76		957
ABILITIES, INC.		60				28				87
ACDS, INC.	54	151	331		163		594			791
ADVANCE CARE ALLIANCE OF NY, INC.				8,634						8,634
AIM SERVICES, INC.			429		66		628			628
BRAVERHOOD, LTD.			348		159		352			478
BROOKVILLE CNTR FOR CHILDREN'S SERVS INC	28									28
CARE DESIGN NY, LLC				3,727						3,727
CATH. CHARITIES OF ROCKVILLE CENTER	99									99

Explore your region's data!

Verification that Job Meets SEMP Criteria



Form

Updated version is now available.

Document Alignment

Aligned with SEMP ETS
(Employment Tracking System)

Instructions: As listed in the OPWDD SEMP regulations, billing for OPWDD Supported Employment (SEMP) services when a **person has a job** is contingent on the criteria listed below. Providers must either complete and keep this form or maintain all the information required on this form in their records for auditing.

Verification that Job Meets SEMP Criteria Form Location

Form Locations:

<https://eiversity.org/resources/opwdd-innovations-resources/>

SEMP FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Verification that Job Meets SEMP Criteria – 07/01/2026

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/adm-2023-09-supported-employment-semp-0>



[Attachment #1: SEMP ADM Verification That Job Meets SEMP Criteria](#)



DOWNLOAD

Career Specific Vocational Training

Amendment process complete

No new adjustments to final contracts

Contract ends March 31st

Last chance to participate !

CSV**T**

Career Specific Vocational Training



- **Increased Opportunities**
 - New CSVT training topics being offered in all Regions
- **Are you providing services to...**
 - Students with school to work experience starting your programs in the summer/fall?
 - Someone who recently lost their job or has been in job development for a long time?
 - An ETP participant who would benefit from additional training?
 - Someone in your CBPV or Pathway to Employment program whose employment goal is aligned with a training topic?

Career Specific Vocational Training

Region	Provider	Training Topics	Class Locations	Contact
1	Community Services for Every1	Hospitality & Culinary, Janitorial, Retail	Buffalo, Canandaigua	Arnecia Delk Adelk@csevery1.com
2	Access CNY	Janitorial, Food Service, Retail, Hospitality	TBD	David Devendorf David.Devendorf@accesscny.org
2	Upstate Caring Partners	Food Service, Janitorial, Hospitality, Retail	Clinton	Dawn Gentile Dawn.Gentile@upstatecp.org
3	Jawonio	Retail, Janitorial	Rockland & Westchester counties	Courtney Burnham Courtney.Burnham@jawonio.org
4	AHRC NYC	Janitorial, Food Service	5 boroughs NYC	Francklin Morose Francklin.Morose@ahrcnyc.org
5	FREE	Custodial, Clerical, Culinary	Oakdale, Brentwood	John Gallagher Jgallagher@FamilyRes.org

Pathway to Employment



Reminders for ADM Requirements (25-ADM-01):

- Service providers **must complete and submit the Career, Vocational and Transition Plan** for every person enrolled in Pathway to Employment services regardless of the number of hours of Pathway to Employment they have received.
- Service providers must **upload each person's Career, Vocational and Transition Plan to CHOICES, no later than 90 days after** the person has been disenrolled from Pathway to Employment services.

Pathway to Employment



Reminders for ADM Requirements (25-ADM-01):

- If the person enrolls with a provider and receives 100 or more hours of Pathway to Employment services from that provider and there are exceptional circumstances where the person has not received three (3) separate community-based vocational experiences and/or 30% of their Pathway to Employment service delivery hours as community-based vocational experiences, the provider may complete **Request to Waive the Community-Based Vocational Experience Requirements Form**.

Pathway to Employment



Pathway to Employment Semi-Annual Status Report

Reports are due: 10/30/2026

- Reports will be sent by Central Office the beginning of October
- *DDP1s submitted after 9/30 may not be reflected in data, contact Central Office directly if your agency is completing retroactive enrollments for reporting period 04/01/2026 – 09/30/2026*

Please reach out to supported.employment.data@opwdd.ny.gov if you have recently started to provide Pathway to Employment services to:

- Update our directory
- Ensure your agency receives a Semi-Annual Status Report
- Receive updates and technical assistance

Break



National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Statewide Events



NDEAM



The Department of Labor (DOL) selected this year's theme "Celebrating Value and Talent" in recognition of the skills and contributions Americans with disabilities add to the nation's workplaces, communities, and economy.

Marketing Materials for NDEAM

- Providers can find key messages, marketing materials and ideas to enhance your NDEAM marketing efforts here: <https://beta.dol.gov/programs-initiatives/ndeam>.
- OPWDD encourages providers to utilize the following materials during the month of October and beyond!
 - OPWDD Commissioner Willow Baer's NDEAM video message available here: <https://youtu.be/E9jrVpFB27E>
 - The “It’s Time to Employ Ability: Hiring People With Disabilities” and “Employing People with Developmental Disabilities: Employers’ Perspective” videos for businesses available here: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/community-involvement/information-businesses>
 - OPWDD’s Benefits for Businesses Postcard with QR code to the OPWDD EmployAbility webpage available.

OPWDD Commissioner Willow Baer's NDEAM Message



Engaging Businesses In October and Beyond!

EmployAbility

Hiring People with Disabilities is Good Business

OPWDD Resources for Businesses

Employing people with developmental disabilities can benefit businesses in many ways, in addition to filling an open job. Benefits include:

Employment-based tax credits
Access to trained & pre-screened job candidates
On-the-job training for employees at no cost
Improved overall business performance & productivity

Gaining long-term employees
A motivated workforce
Demonstrated commitment to your community
Improved accessibility for employees & customers

These benefits and more can help a business' bottom line and increase their competitive edge.



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

EmployAbility

Hiring People with Disabilities is Good Business

Get Started Today!

Email: EmployAbility@opwdd.ny.gov
or visit our website for more information.



opwdd.ny.gov/community-involvement/about-employability



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities



OPWDD's Communications Office Updates



Social Media Campaign

OPWDD will continue to feature success stories that the benefits of inclusive hiring practices, learn more, here:

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSOPWDD/>

<https://www.instagram.com/nysopwdd/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nys-office-for-people-with-developmental-disabilities>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqRQipj6Ke-Hd6Im6-s0l5w>

<https://x.com/NYSOPWDD>

Business Flyer

A new flyer is being developed for distribution to businesses at meetings, conferences and community events.

NDEAM Event Planning...

From the Agency's Perspective



NDEAM Provider Agency Presentation

Jennifer Sutton – Director of Employment

Independent Living Inc.

Region 3 – Newburgh

NDEAM Employer Recognition Event



CELEBRATING
VALUE AND
TALENT!!

OCTOBER 22ND 2026

8:30am to 11:30am
The Powelton Club
29 Old Balmville Rd
Newburgh, NY

Come Celebrate the 36th
Anniversary of the
Americans with Disabilities
Act



HONOR THE POWERFUL
WORK THAT OUR
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE
TO DO TO ENSURE EQUAL
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

N D E A M
NATIONAL
DISABILITY
EMPLOYER
RECOGNITION
SUMMIT
REGISTRATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Andy Sink

EMPLOYMENT FIRST DIRECTOR



Andy will provide a high-level
overview of Executive Order 40
Employment First implementation
strategies and the underlying
principles driving those efforts.

REGISTER HERE!!

\$20 Registration fee
Limited seats available so
register early!!



NDEAM Provider Agency Presentation

Jeanie Shelton – Director of Employment

ACLD

Region 5 – Long Island - Bethpage

NDEAM Talent Job Expo

TALENT CONNECTION JOB EXPO

Hosted by FREE, ACLD, AHRC Nassau & Life's WORC



OCTOBER 5TH

9:30 AM- 1:00 PM

Town of Oyster Bay Ice Skating Center
1001 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

WILLOW BAER

Commissioner, NYS Office for
People with Developmental
Disabilities (OPWDD)

Registration deadline for
employers is **09/25/2026**

Visit talentexpo.org for the full
agenda for the day and registration

No registration required for
employment seekers.

For more information, or if you are in need of
reasonable accomodation, please contact:

✉ adowd@familyres.org

✉ sheltonj@acld.org

The 2026 Talent Connection Job Expo is presented by:



In partnership with:



What did we miss?

Share upcoming events in your area in the chat!



SEMP Employment Tracking System ETS Updates

ETS Quick Reference Guide for SEMP Providers

An updated ETS Quick Reference Guide is now available

- It can be found on the Eleversity website under OPWDD Innovations Resources in the *Operational Resources for Management* section: <https://eleversity.org/resources/opwdd-innovations-resources/>
- Includes step-by-step instructions for logging into ETS, entering data, submitting a report and more
- Keep on file as a resource
- Share with staff who are new to ETS

Let's look at it together...

SEMP Employment Tracking System (ETS)
*Quick Reference Guide
for SEMP Providers*

September 2026

ETS Sample Agency Data



Benefits of ETS Data and Historical Data Reports

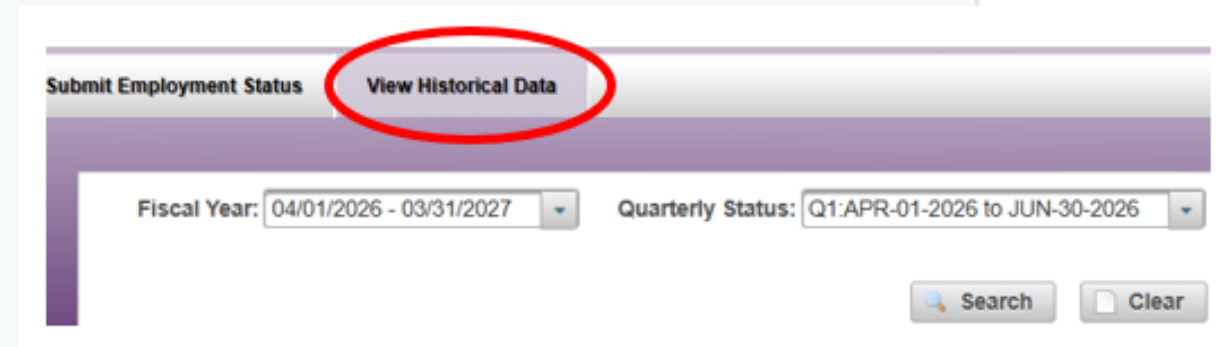


- Have information readily available.
- Better understand your program through visualization of data.
- Make informed programmatic decisions.
- Identify and analyze trends, averages, gaps, etc.
- Allocate staffing resources.

Data Source

ETS Historical Data Reports

- # of people Employed vs Not Employed
- Funding Source Used to Obtain Job
- Type of Job
- Primary Mode of Transportation
- Job Start Date
- Job Termination Date and Reason
- Hourly Wage
- Average Weekly Hours



Submit Employment Status **View Historical Data**

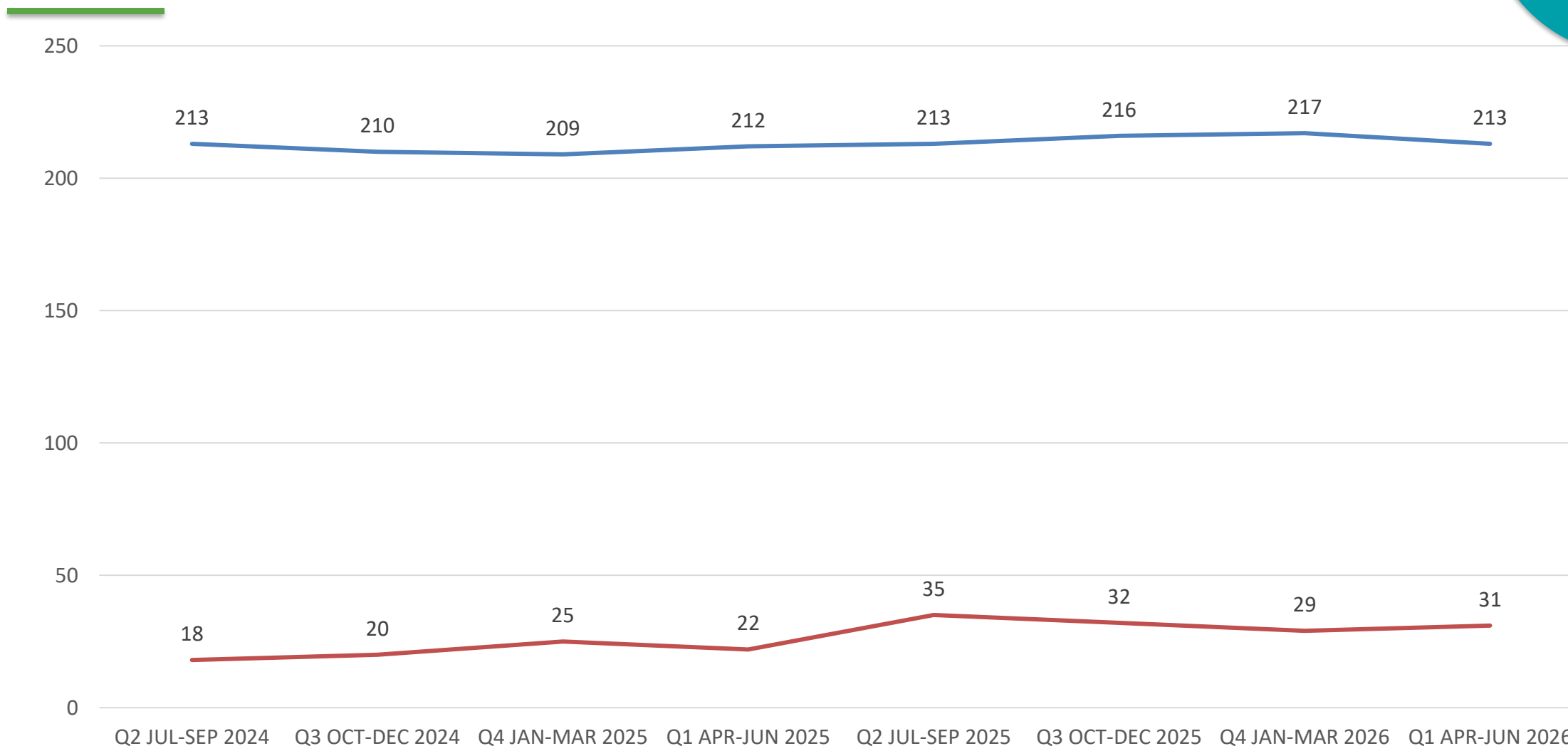
Fiscal Year: 04/01/2026 - 03/31/2027 Quarterly Status: Q1: APR-01-2026 to JUN-30-2026

Search Clear

ETS Data and Historical Data Reports

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Agency Name:						Provider Agency		
2	Employed This Quarter						Status as of 06/30/2026		
3	Employed (works 6 months or more per year)						175		
4	Employed and Currently Working Seasonal or Temp (works fewer than 6 months per year)						0		
5	Disenrolled - Working Independently						0		
6	Disenrolled – Working and Transferred to New Agency						0		
7	Total Employed:						175		
8	Not Employed This Quarter						Status as of 06/30/2026		
9	ETP - Internship on ETP Payroll						6		
10	ETP - Not in an Internship Yet						2		
11	Not Employed and Continues to Receive Services						2		
12	Not Serving Temporarily						0		
13	Not Serving and In Process of Disenrolling						0		
14	Disenrolled						4		
15	Total Not Employed:						14		
16									
17									
18									
19	Last Name	First Name	TABS Id	Region	Regional Field Office	Date of Birth	SEMP Enrollment Date	SEMP Disenrollment Date	Quarterly Status
20	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
21	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
22	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
23	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
24	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
25	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
26	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)
27	Person	Working	12345678	7	Unknown Region	1/1/2001	8/19/2020		Employed (works 6 months or more per year)

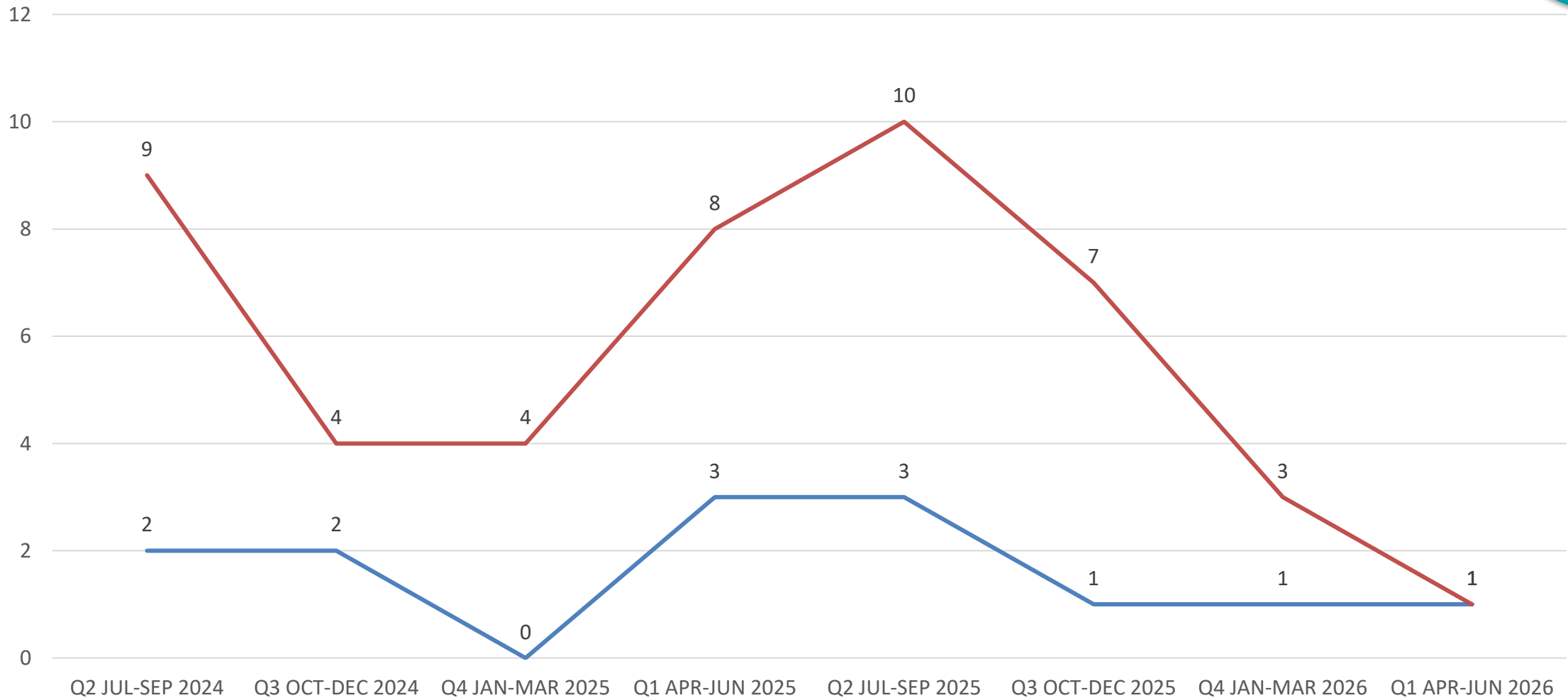
Employed vs Not Employed July 2024 – June 2026



Source: Sample ETS Report

— Employed — Not Employed

New Jobs vs. Job Terminations July 2024 – June 2026

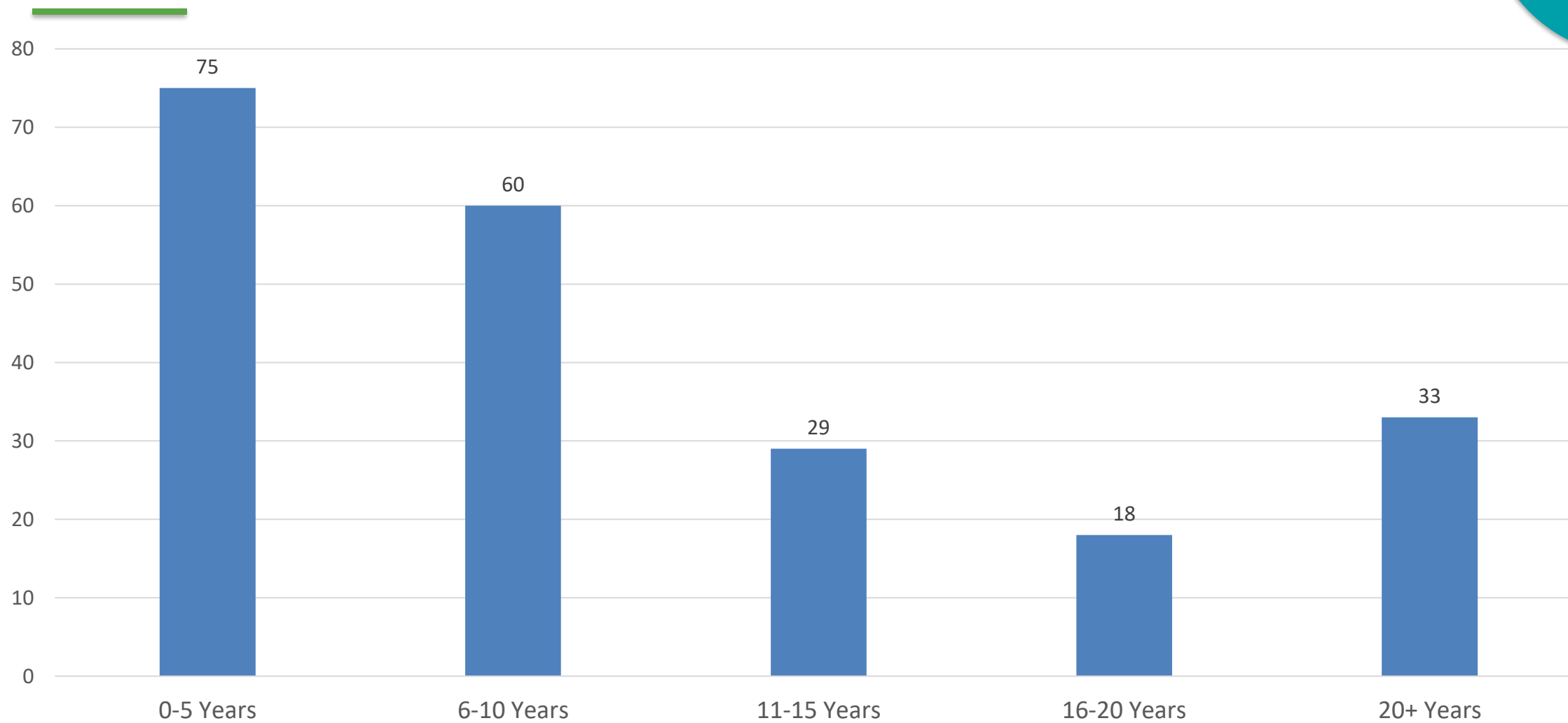


Source: Sample ETS Report

— New Jobs

— Job Terminations

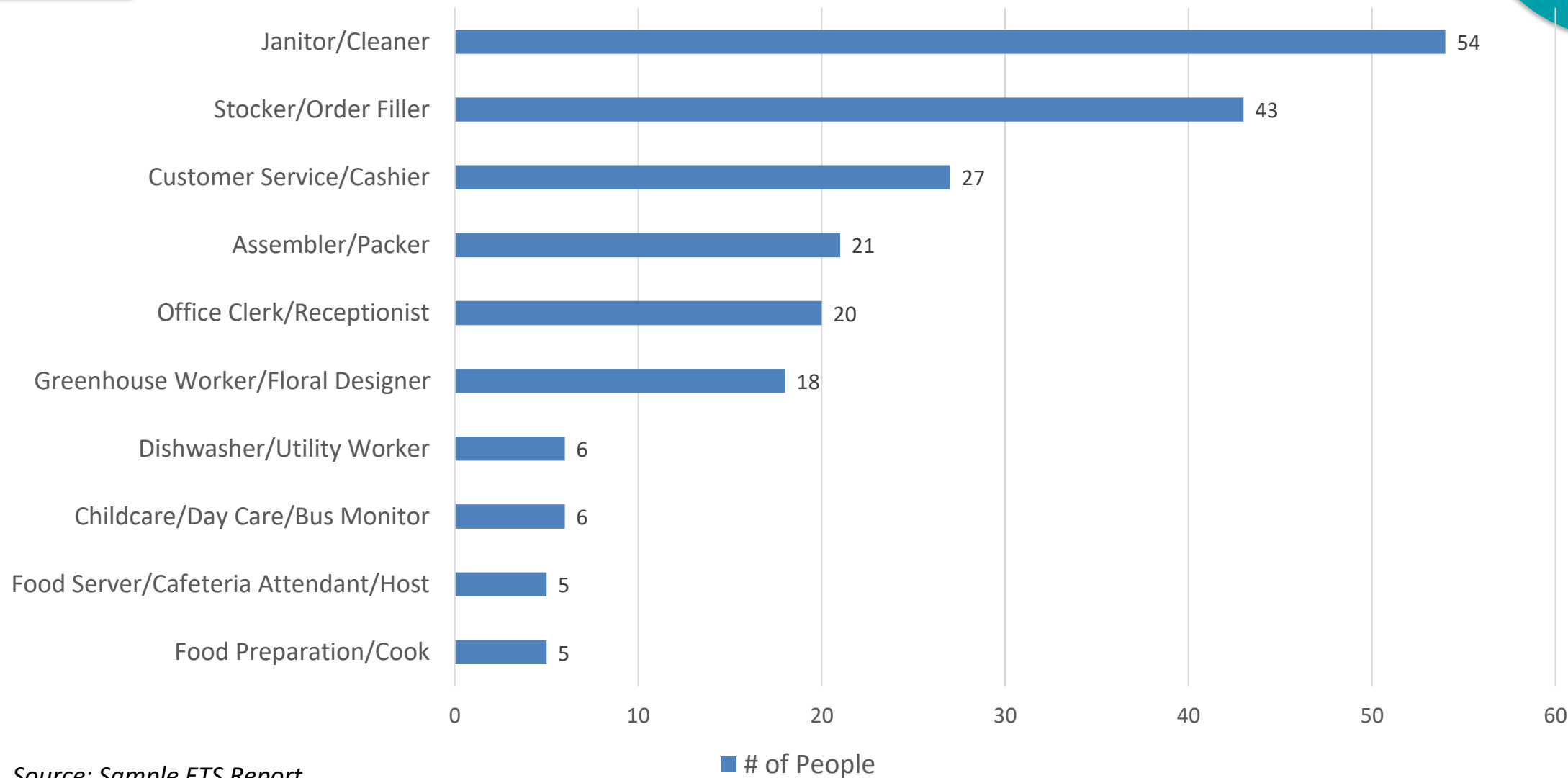
Employment Longevity



Source: Sample ETS Report

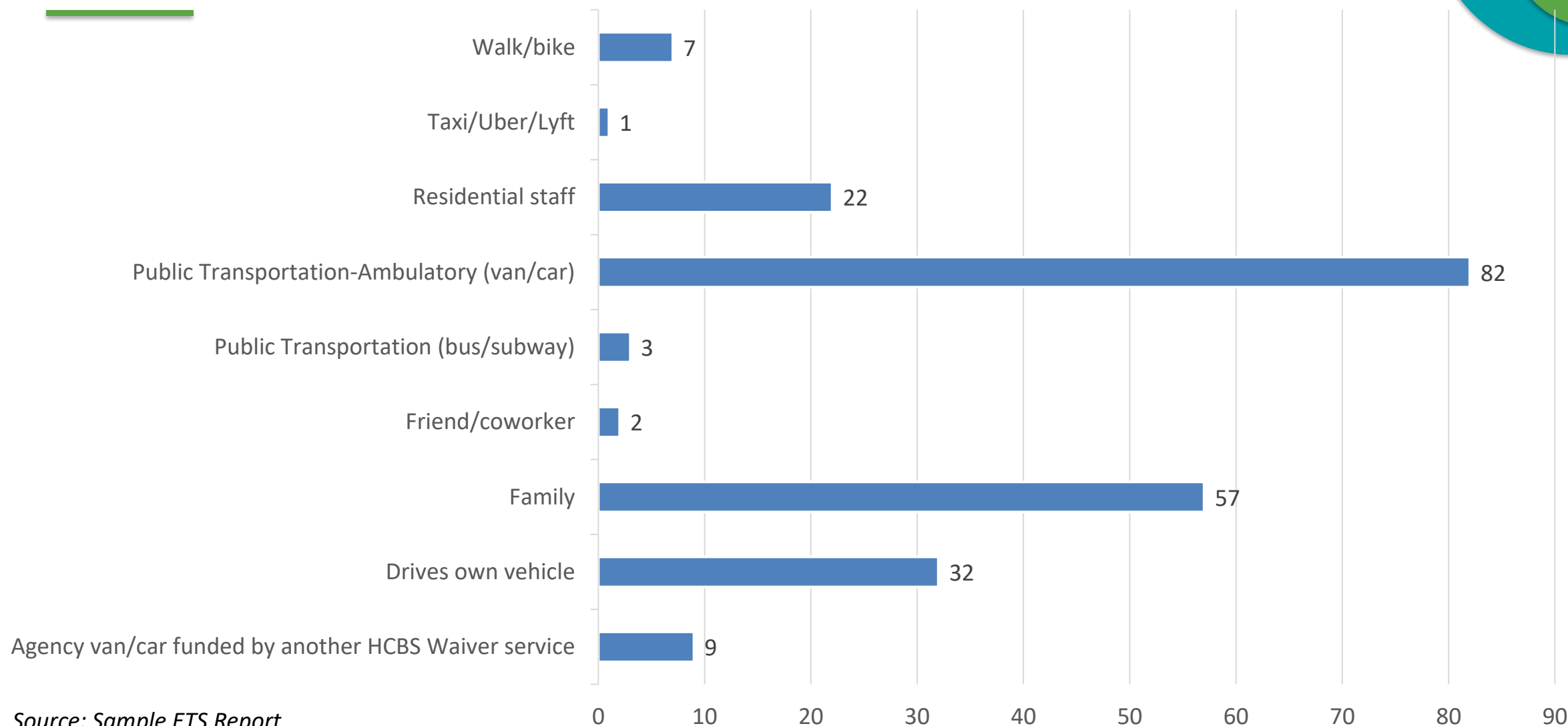
■ # of People

Top 10 Types of Jobs



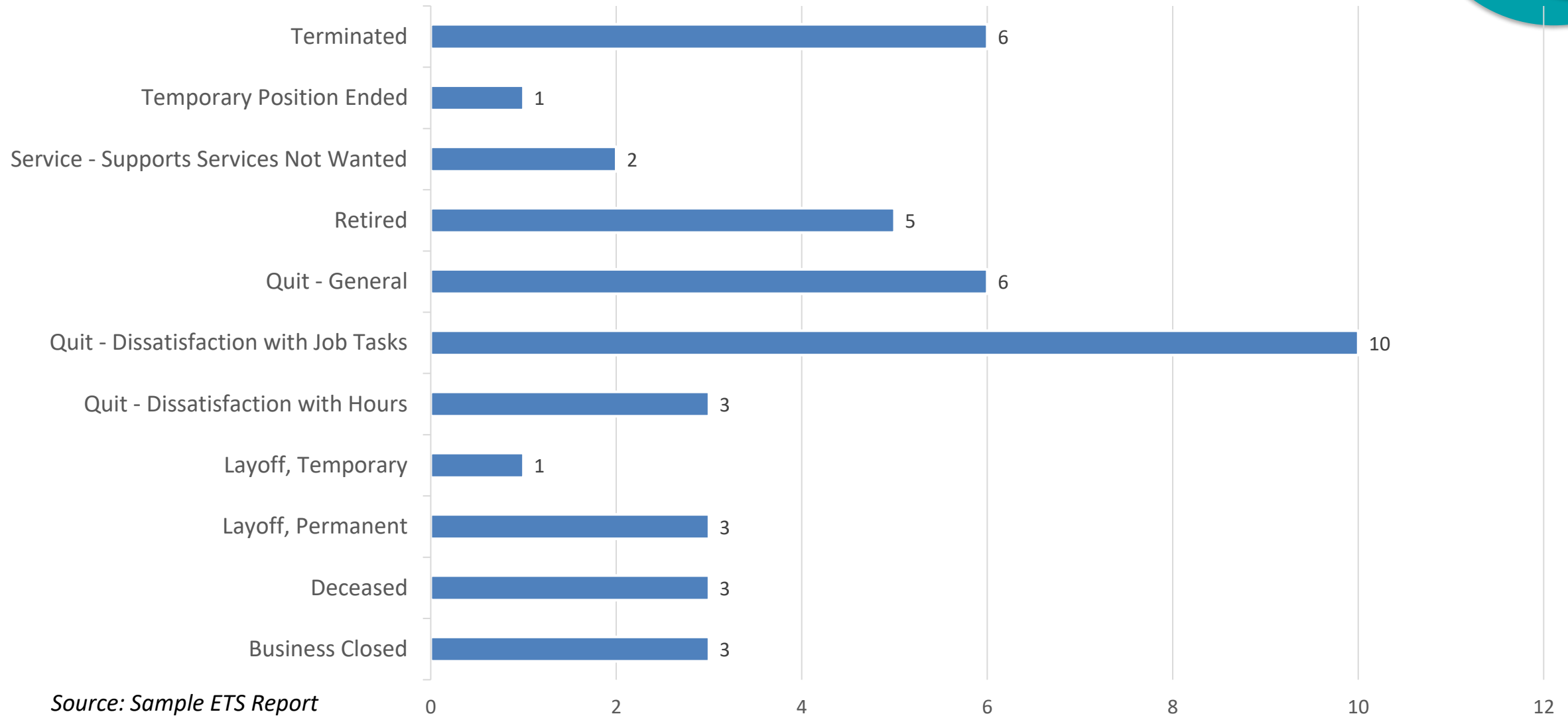
Source: Sample ETS Report

Mode of Transportation



Source: Sample ETS Report

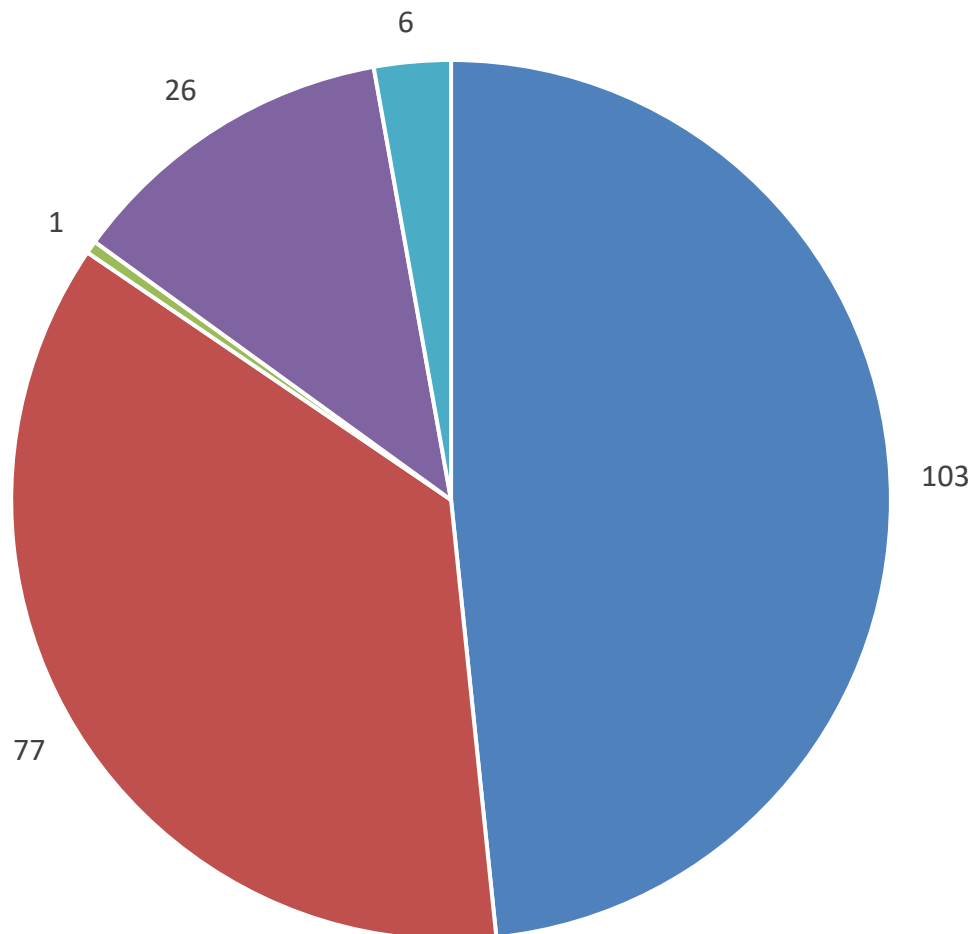
Termination Reasons July 2024 – June 2026



Source: Sample ETS Report

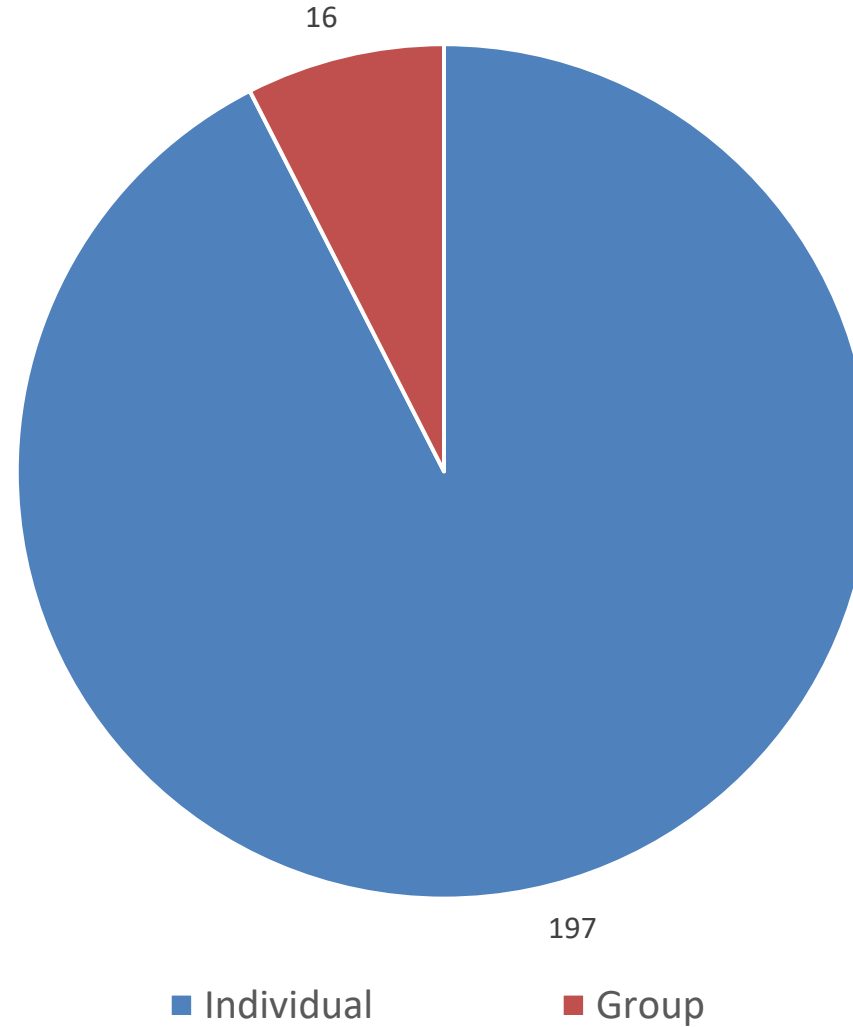
Funding Source Used to Obtain Job

Source: Sample ETS Report



■ ACCES-VR ■ OPWDD Extended SEMP ■ OPWDD Intensive SEMP ■ Other Funding Source ■ Unknown Funding Source

Individual vs Group Placements



Source: Sample ETS Report

Fun Facts and Other Useful Information



- Weekly Hours
 - Average = 15.9
 - 11 people working full time (35-40 hours per week)
- Wages
 - Average = \$17.53
 - Highest wage = \$30.52
- 11 people are working multiple jobs

Source: Sample ETS Report

ETS Technical Assistance

EMPLOYMENT TRACKING SYSTEM (ETS) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

supported.employment.data@opwdd.ny.gov



Request to Bill SEMP Forms Improvements



Request to Bill SEMP Services Forms

Provider Committee conducted review and provided feedback to OPWDD Central Office.

OPWDD Central Office made updates to *Request to Bill Intensive SEMP* and *Request to Bill Additional Extended SEMP* Forms.

2025–2026

Fall 2026

Summer 2025

Spring 2026

OPWDD gathered internal feedback and reviewed concerns that delayed processing and approval.

New Forms Highlights:

Fewer Pages and Questions

Increased flexibility for Initial Intensive SEMP Hours

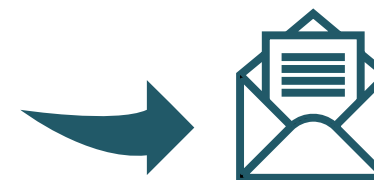
Less Redundancy with ETS

Maintained accountability for Additional Intensive SEMP Hours

Request to Bill SEMP Services

- Streamlined data fields by eliminating redundant instances (names and TABS IDs)
- Consolidated funding information for State-Funded and Self-Hired SEMP Supports
- Section categories tailored to a person's need for SEMP services
- Relieved administrative burden by refining required data to focus exclusively on decision making information

Email will be sent when forms become available on Eleversity website.



Intensive SEMP Billing Rate Codes

Location: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/rates/mental_hygiene/

4790 – SEMP Intensive Agency Provider – Individual

4791 - SEMP Intensive Agency Provider - Group

4769 – SEMP Intensive Self Hired SD – Individual

4770 – SEMP Intensive Self Hired SD – Group

4759 – SEMP Intensive Agency Supported – Individual

4760 SEMP Intensive Agency Supported – Group

Extended SEMP Billing Rate Codes

Location: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/rates/mental_hygiene/

4792 – SEMP Extended Agency Provider – Individual

4793 - SEMP Extended Agency Provider - Group

4771 – SEMP Extended Self Hired SD – Individual

4772 – SEMP Extended Self Hired SD – Group

4761 – SEMP Extended Agency Supported – Individual

4762 SEMP Extended Agency Supported – Group

Prior Approval for SEMP Services

A provider must obtain **PRIOR APPROVAL** from OPWDD's Central Office Employment Unit to:



Intensive SEMP

Bill for all Intensive SEMP services



Additional Extended SEMP

Bill for Additional Extended SEMP
Services
(after the initial 200 hours)



ETP

ETP Supervisors will submit
Requests to Bill OPWDD Intensive
SEMP for an ETP Participant.

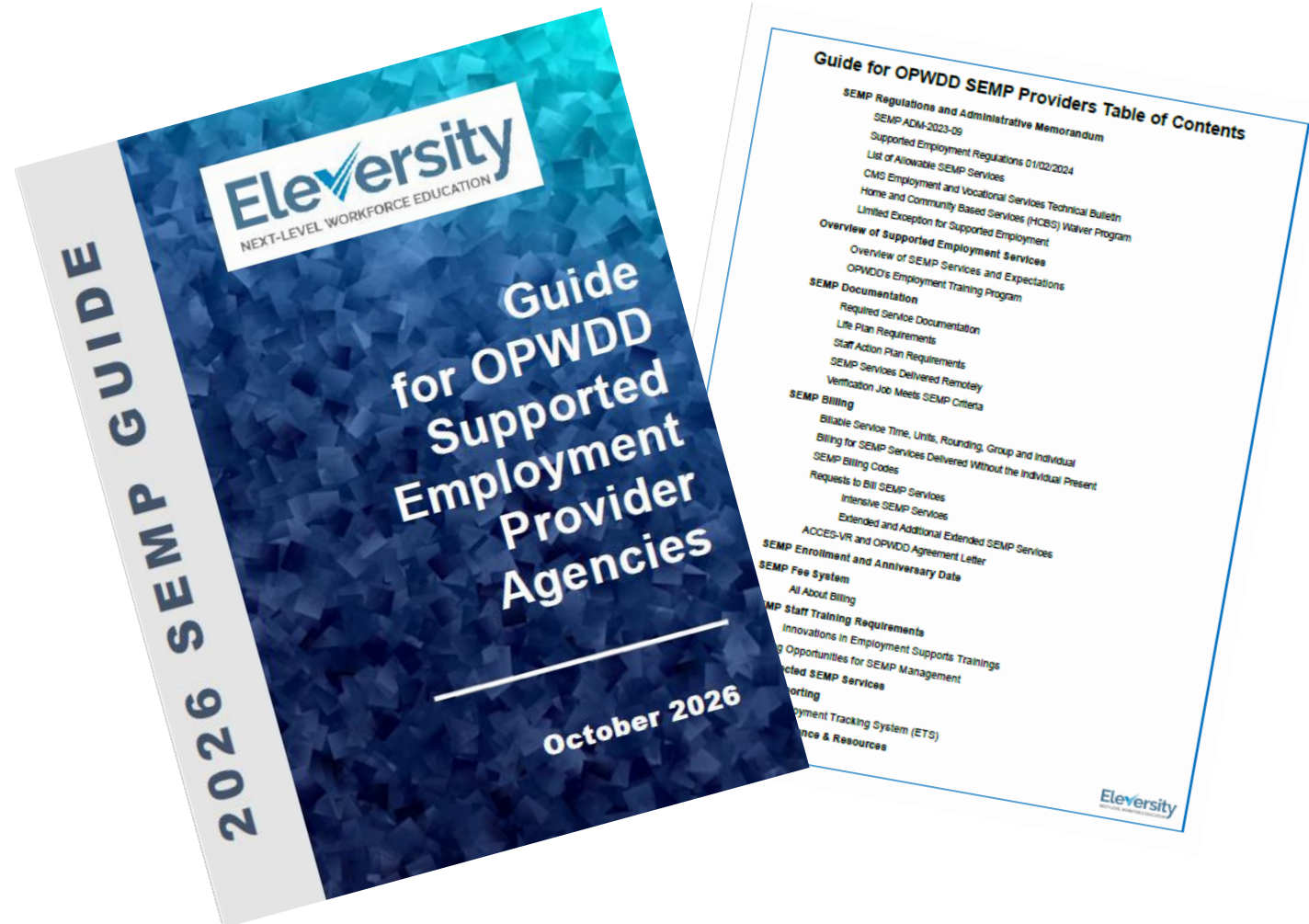
Retroactive approvals may only be granted by OPWDD under extenuating circumstances per 14 NYCRR 635-10.4(j)(5)(i)(g).

Elleversity Updates



Management Class Resource

- **SEMP Guide for Providers**
- Added to management classes as new resource
- Basics for new management or training resource for staff entering mid-level management



SUPERVISING JOB DEVELOPERS

FOR SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Stronger Supervision. Stronger Outcomes. Brighter Futures.

October 2, 2026
8:30 – 11:30

Effective job development does not happen by chance—it is the result of intentional supervision, clear expectations, and ongoing coaching. This training is designed for vocational managers who supervise employment support professionals and want to strengthen outcomes for job seekers, build high-performing teams, and ensure job development practices align with person-centered services and evidence-based employment strategies.

YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO:

1 PRACTICE EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION

Identify key supervisory practices that support effective job development, including setting clear expectations, monitoring performance, and providing structured guidance to employment support professionals.

2 COACH FOR SUCCESS

Apply coaching strategies that strengthen the skills and confidence of employment support professionals, leading to more effective employer engagement and improved employment outcomes for job seekers.

3 EVALUATE AND ALIGN PRACTICES

Evaluate job development practices to ensure they align with person-centered principles and evidence-based employment strategies.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Build strong teams.

Improve employer engagement.

Create better outcomes for job seekers.

REGISTER TODAY!

Invest in your team.
Transform outcomes.

Effective Supervision. Confident Teams. *Meaningful Employment.*

Limited Spots Left!

Registration information in the Chat

Register now for tomorrow's session

OPWDD Employment Services Directors Meeting | Eleversity

Eleversity
NEXT-LEVEL WORKFORCE EDUCATION

OPWDD Contacts



OPWDD Contacts



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Kristine Snyder, LMSW

Statewide Employment and
Vocational Services Coordinator

Kristine.Snyder@opwdd.ny.gov

Technical Assistance



EMCA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MAILBOXES

- employment.vocational.services@opwdd.ny.gov
- day.community.services@opwdd.ny.gov

EMCA/ETP DIRECTORY

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

Eleversity Contact

*Learning
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Stronger
Communities
Tomorrow*



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Education. Opportunity. Stronger Communities.