



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES
Vocational Rehabilitation
Tel. (518) 402-3955 Fax. (518) 473-6073

POL 14-04

To: All Vocational Rehabilitation Staff

Date: April 21, 2014

Subject: New Funding Levels for Cost Effective Skills Training

Postsecondary training is identified as a key strategy in the ACCES-VR State Plan for improving the quality of employment outcomes and increasing wage levels of individuals completing vocational rehabilitation services. Specifically, we have a goal to increase the overall earnings for individuals completing ACCES-VR services. In order to facilitate participation in cost effective skills training, ACCES-VR is increasing the funding level.

The funding level for cost effective training increases from \$7,000 to \$10,000, for skills training at proprietary vocational schools and community colleges. For skills training at BOCES, the actual cost may be paid. These changes take effect immediately.

Cost Effective Skills Training

In order to provide training in the most cost effective manner, consideration of available resources may be waived to allow skills training at proprietary vocational schools, community colleges and BOCES that may be comparable to training at a rehabilitation facility if:

- The maximum allowable cost to ACCES-VR for tuition, books and fees for proprietary vocational schools and community colleges does not exceed \$10,000 and the skills program for which consideration of available resources is waived does not exceed one year in duration and is a non-degree program.
- The actual cost for tuition may be paid for skills training at BOCES and up to two years duration may be allowed for BOCES programs that operate on half-day sessions or for trainees whose disabilities require part-time attendance.

In order for the waiver to be approved by the senior counselor, all program costs, including tuition, books and fees, must be documented in the plan for service. The plan for service, which includes cost effective training, must be signed by the counselor and the senior counselor. Individuals may participate in programs that cost more than

\$10,000, as long as the total cost to ACCES-VR does not exceed this amount for proprietary vocational schools and community colleges. Any costs in excess of the \$10,000 waiver limit for these institutions are subject to consideration of consumer resources.

The [Consumer Participation in the Cost of Services Policy \(1125.00\)](#) on the VR Policy Manual webpage will be edited to reflect this change. The [Non-degree Training: Trade, Business and Other Schools Procedure 410.00P](#) will also be edited in the section on *Cost Effective Skills Training for Short Term Programs*.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

OBSOLETE: POL-13-03 New Funding Level for Cost Effective Skills Training, May 15, 2013

REFERENCE:

[Consumer Participation in the Cost of Services Policy \(1125.00\)](#)
[Non-degree Training: Trade, Business and Other Schools Procedure 410.00P](#)

INQUIRIES: Any questions concerning this memorandum should be addressed to the Policy and Partnership Unit at 518-473-1626.

Debra Brown-Johnson
Assistant Commissioner