

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Employment First Form

Name: _____ Waiver Span: _____

***More Information about the SELF Waiver and the employment opportunities it has can be found in the SELF Waiver handbook.**

What is Employment First?

It is the policy of the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver that emphasizes employment as the priority and preferred outcome for working-age adults with disabilities. Employment First recognizes the social and economic benefits of meaningful work for all individuals. Everyone, regardless of disability, should have the opportunity to earn at least minimum wage in integrated, community-based settings.

Each working-age adult enrolled in SELF is encouraged to consider integrated or supported employment before any other day service option. Through the waiver, you may receive help with:

- Developing a plan to get a job in the general workforce that pays at least minimum wage
- Finding a job that fits your strengths/interests
- Getting an internship or apprenticeship
- Starting a new business
- Initial and ongoing training to help you maintain your job
- Transportation to help you find and keep a competitive job in your community

Employment and Benefits:

- Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD)

MBIWD is an Ohio Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to working Ohioans with disabilities. Historically, people with disabilities were often discouraged from working because their earnings made them ineligible for Medicaid coverage. MBIWD was created to enable Ohioans with disabilities to work and still keep their health care coverage. For more information visit <http://www.ifs.ohio.gov/ohp/mbiwd.stm> or contact your local Job and Family Services office.

- Social Security Incentives

Special rules make it possible for people with disabilities receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to work and still receive monthly payments and Medicare or Medicaid. Social Security calls these rules "work incentives." For more information regarding these incentives, visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/generalinfo.htm> or contact your local Social Security office.

Other day service options available through the waiver:

- Adult Day Supports – non-work activities provided outside of one's residence
- Vocational Habilitation – services designed to teach and reinforce concepts related to work.

If you choose to receive Adult Day Supports or Vocational Habilitation through SELF, a reason for this choice is required. Please provide information requested on the back of this form.

Chosen service(s): _____

Why did you select this service over Integrated Employment or Supported Employment-Enclave?

Have you ever had the opportunity to participate in a community-based assessment for employment?

What barriers might exist that could keep you from accessing Integrated Employment or Supported Employment-Enclave?

What additional supports are needed for you to consider Integrated Employment or Supported Employment-Enclave?

Individual/Guardian

Date

County Board Representative

Date