



Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Manual Revisions 2023

MENTAL HEALTH AND DIDD SUPPORT SPECIALISTS TRAINING

Revision Summary – Include training provided by the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) Direct Support Professional Training Academy that is supported by VR.

VR Policy

1. Mental health support specialist training encompasses Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Training, Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist Training, Certified Family Support Specialist Training, and WRAP II Facilitator Training.
2. **The TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) Direct Support Professional Training Academy provides training for a career in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Refer to DSP Toolkit for more information.**
3. The provision of support specialist training is not subject to financial need.
4. Determine and utilize comparable services and benefits, as available.
5. Mental Health Support Specialist Training is provided at no cost by the State Department of Mental Health. Refer to Tennessee's Certified Peer Recovery Specialist program for more information. A training provider other than the State Department of Mental Health must be justified and approved by the VR Regional Supervisor and be approved for VR funding.
6. **DIDD Direct Support Professional Training Academy is provided by CRPs (who are also ECF Choices/DIDD Employment Service providers) in accordance with DIDD and VR training and reporting requirements and are paid by VR. Refer to DSP Training for more information.**

VR Procedures

1. Document discussions and active involvement with the individual or, as appropriate, the individual's representative regarding the assessment for and provision of training in a case note, including supports that may be available during the provision of services and the customer's participation in the cost, when warranted.
2. Include mental health or DIDD support specialist training in the customer's IPE prior to authorizing for services.
3. **The DIDD DSP Training Academy includes the DSP training, placement, CPR/First Aid Certification, background check, and/or TB testing.**