

Introducing Summer Youth Foundations

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) remains committed to partnering with providers to deliver meaningful services for youth with disabilities this summer. However, OOD recognizes that these services will likely need to be modified this year so that they can be provided appropriately in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to that, OOD has created a new service for Summer 2020, Summer Youth Foundations. This service will replace both Summer Youth Work Experience and Summer Youth Career Exploration services on OOD's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Fee Schedule.

Summer Youth Foundations is designed to be a flexible model, allowing for in-person work experience, where appropriate, and supplementing with remote delivery of additional VR services such as self-advocacy training and career exploration where needed. Most importantly, it considers the needs of students and their families and provides an option for students when planned work sites are not available, or when students and families may not want to participate in the community this summer, no matter what the setting. Providers will be able to group referred students into small groups with similar needs and adapt the services to meet the needs of those specific students.

Service Description

Summer Youth Foundations is a new service incorporating Summer Youth Career Exploration and Summer Youth Work Experience. Providers can select from five weekly "building blocks" of services to build a 2-5 week service configuration in order to meet the needs of the students and the community. Each week of service must be designed to provide 12 hours of service to each student participating in the program.

The "building blocks" for service are:

Foundations Week 1 - Focus on self-advocacy

- Interactive activities
- Videos and discussion
- Explore accommodations
- When and how to disclose disability

Foundations Week 2 – Focus on post-secondary options

- Virtual college/career tech/apprenticeship videos
- Discussion and interactive activities

Career Exploration

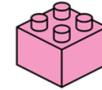
- Virtual job site tours
- Remote informational interviews
- Video and discussion
- Work inventories and/or vocational evaluations

Job Seeking Skills Training

- Remote services for job seeking skills training
- Resume writing
- Practice interviewing/mock interviews
- Discussing social media presence
- Preparing for remote interviews

Work Experience*

- Consider workplace availability, health and safety best practices
- May be limited to 1-2 participants based on employer/work site requirements
- Must provide PPE for participants
- Transportation allowed at a maximum of 1 student per vehicle at a time



***OOD reserves the right to cancel the work experience block of service at any time if it is determined that it is not consistent with Ohio’s public health orders. If such a circumstance arises, providers will be allowed to repeat other blocks of services within Summer Youth Foundations.**

Service Requirements

Summer Youth Foundations is intended as a group-based service utilized to teach students and youth with disabilities vocational skills and appropriate work behaviors. However, services may be provided on an individual 1:1 (one provider staff to one participant) basis to accommodate disability-related needs as identified and approved by the VR counselor or contractor. The maximum ratio is 1:4 (one provider staff to four participants). The Flat Fee (weekly) rate matching the Summer Youth Work Experience shall include all meetings and preparation for services with the participant and his/her parent or legal guardian prior to the service and includes a staffing with the VR counselor/coordinator at the end of the service. Services may be provided as a direct service to participants [via online technology](#) with audio and video (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Classroom, etc.). Services cannot be delivered via “assignment” based activities.

Training Stipend

Consistent with the typical delivery of Summer Youth Work experience, students participating in Summer Youth Foundations will receive a training stipend for all activities (work experience and other building blocks). This training stipend will encourage engagement and a positive association with career development activities and will help support the technology and other costs associated with the student’s participation in the service. Students will be required to be engaged in training, with providers documenting participation and hours toward training stipends.

Communication and Continuity

Vocational Rehabilitation Providers should work closely with the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to determine the best options for participants previously referred for Summer Youth Work Experiences and Summer Youth Career Exploration as well as any potential new referrals for the Summer Youth Foundations service. Providers will communicate to counselors the configurations of and schedule for services at least one week prior to beginning. Providers will give login-access to counselor/coordinators for any remote sessions upon request, and are encouraged to schedule report outs with counselors/coordinators during the final week of services.

Where remote services are being provided, the first day should be used to discuss expectations for services, including any technology orientation, attendance/behavior expectations, requirements for the training stipend, and any other critical information based on the service schedule. On-site work experiences should similarly begin with a discussion of attendance/behavior expectations, safety protocols (including instruction related to COVID-19), and other workplace rules.

Fees for Service

Weekly Rates for Summer Youth Foundations will be the same as the rates for Summer Youth Work Experience, as listed on OOD’s VR Fee Schedule and are outlined in the following table. To account for the change in student environment (in-person to remote) and provider preparation, OOD is reducing the minimum service requirement from 20 hours of direct service with students to 12 hours of direct service. Providers will administer the training stipend paid to participants.

# Individuals	Weekly Rate
1	\$1,212.00



2	\$654.48
3	\$496.92
4	\$399.96

Note: Service will not be pro-rated for holiday weeks (e.g. Memorial Day or 4TH of July). Providers should plan accordingly to provide the twelve (12) hours of service per week.

Reporting

Reporting will be on Form #20: **Summer Youth Foundations**. **The Summer Youth Foundation form will condense and simplify multiple report templates. This form will be used to bill, report on the service, and to report on the training stipend. This form will be available by May 21, 2020.**

Provider Training Dates

Provider Training May 4, 2020

Direct Service Staff Training May 14, 2020

Questions

Questions regarding this service can be emailed to crpvendor@ood.ohio.gov or by contacting your local Provider and Contract Management Unit Representative.