**F. Arrangements and Cooperative Agreements for the provision of Supported Employment Services**

(Formerly known as Attachment 4.8(b)(4)). Demonstrate evidence of the designated State unit’s efforts to identify and make arrangements, including entering into cooperation agreements with other state agencies and other appropriate entities to assist in the provision of supported employment services and other public or non-profit agencies or organizations within the state, employers, natural supports, and other entities with respect to the provision of extended services.

Community Rehabilitation Program providers across the Commonwealth who are providing supported employment services are verified through written applications with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The application process includes written verification of the CRP’s funding for extended services. The Community Rehabilitation Program Branch evaluates all vendors to ensure that services are appropriately provided and funding is available for extended services.

Kentucky’s fourteen Regional Boards for Mental Health or Individuals with an Intellectual Disability are a primary source for extended services in KY. Cooperative budget planning is done between the OVR and the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) so that state funds for all phases of supported employment can be sought by each agency. A cooperative agreement is also in place.

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the OVR partnered together, and in 2010, Kentucky became the 12th state to participate in the Dartmouth College, Johnson and Johnson, Supported Employment Initiative to demonstrate the effectiveness of the IPS model for supported employment (Individualized Placement and Support, an Evidence-Based Practice). The first local pilot projects were launched prior to the close of 2010. Through the Dartmouth Project, a new SE funding partner was added when the Greater Cincinnati Health Foundation provided funding for 2 of the local pilots in Northern KY. IPS Supported Employment now includes all 14 Kentucky Community Mental Health Centers. In FY 2019 the partnership with Behavioral Health continues with the addition of 4 IPS sites outside of the Community Mental Health Centers and 2 sites serving those with substance abuse.

United Way monies have been utilized in minimal amounts for supported employment services by 16 Supported Employment programs in Kentucky. Ongoing follow-up services are provided through these United Way monies. These dollars are generally not “disability specific” and could assist in expansion of services to groups other than those served by the 14 community mental health centers.

Vendor status in the OVR Supported Employment Outcome-based Reimbursement program requires written verification of the provider’s funding for extended services. Monitoring and technical assistance is provided by the OVR’s Community Rehabilitation Program Branch to assure that services are provided and funded appropriately. CRP agreements are developed bi-annually and reviewed annually in 2019, the OVR implemented four Memorandums of Understanding to increase capacity for Customized Supported Employment services in high need areas throughout Kentucky. Four CRP providers were awarded these contracts after submission of Request for Proposals (RFP). RFP’s were sent to non-profit agencies throughout the Kentucky that resulted in a total of eight submitting their proposal for review.

The CRP Branch works closely with Kentucky APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) and its committees, and the 874K Coalition (a statewide Disability Advocacy Group) in a unified effort to secure additional state dollars for supported employment extended services.

The CRP Branch has been active in the development and improvement of Kentucky’s Medicaid Waiver Programs to create workable systems for coordinating supported employment services for eligible participants. Expansion of the Supports for Community Living Waiver (Kentucky’s Medicaid Waivers for individuals with Developmental Disabilities) and the Michelle P Waiver has resulted in increased referrals to the OVR for supported employment services for mutually eligible participants. The self-determination and Participant Directed Services within Medicaid hold much promise for supported employment funding for extended services. A new Medicaid Waiver containing better service definitions and fee structures to support and fund supported employment services rolled out in 2014.

The CRP Branch works cooperatively with the Arc of Kentucky, among other groups, such as the Kentucky Association of Supporting Employment First (KYAPSE), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (BHDDID), the Kentucky Rehabilitation Association (KRA), UK Human Development Institute, EKU Center of Excellence, most of the Comprehensive Care Centers in the state, and many Community Rehabilitation Program providers, to educate families about supported employment and enlist their assistance in accessing additional funds for supported employment.

The OVR continues to advocate for expanded/improved Supported Living services, which are utilized by many supported employment participants to meet their needs for as independent a lifestyle as possible. The Hart Supported Living Program in KY offers very flexible state dollars available for all phases of independent living. However, statewide dollars are very limited.

The OVR continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities, Human Development Institute (HDI) (University of Kentucky), and the Arc of Kentucky to provide quality training on fundamentals of supported employment through the Supported Employment Training Project (SETP). This training is valuable in assuring that personnel who provide supported employment services have the necessary skills, values, and tools to deliver effective services. ~~A~~ The Leadership Series program ~~in~~ has been developed through HDI at the University of Kentucky, which provides advanced training in Systematic Instruction, Discovery, Job Developing, and Social Role Valorization, and is designed to assist job seekers in acquiring customized employment.

10. The CRP Branch staff collaborates with Special Education planning units throughout the commonwealth to develop supported employment services for students exiting schools. Again, additional dollars will be needed for extended services in order to adequately serve the students. A pilot project began in 2010 to demonstrate the effectiveness of Community Rehabilitation Programs agencies working together with Post-Secondary Education programs to include people with developmental disabilities in classes and other college campus activities.

The CRP Branch continues efforts to utilize Social Security Work Incentives, including PASS (Plan for Achieving Self-Support) and IRWE (Impairment Related Work Expenses), for extended services when appropriate. Training opportunities are offered through the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute to provide technical assistance for supported employment personnel to learn more about these work incentive programs. In summary, the following potential funding sources for supported employment have been identified:

* Local and county government
* Kentucky Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities (grant opportunities only)
* United Way
* Social Security Work Incentives Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) and Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
* Natural Supports
* Division of Behavioral Health
* Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
* Hart Supported Living Funds
* Private pay agreements
* Supports for Community Living Waiver, Michelle P, and Brain Injury Medicaid Waivers.

Information regarding these potential funding sources is updated and shared by the CRP Branch on a statewide basis to encourage increased funding for all phases of supported employment.