

24.10 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

When there is no employment or work-experience position for the client, the work participation requirement may be met by participation in a community service program. In addition, community service programs may eliminate some barriers to full-time employment by developing necessary skills and exposing the client to new experiences he may not have considered as possible means to becoming self-sufficient. Community service programs include, but are not limited to: life skills classes, parenting classes, dependent care, job readiness instruction, volunteer work, participation in a sheltered workshop, substance abuse treatment or mental health counseling. More information about these items follow, but the Worker is encouraged to develop other opportunities within the community.

A. LIFE SKILLS

Life-skills classes may include information on proper nutrition and hygiene, budgeting, telephone usage, time management, housing, consumer skills, citizenship and community awareness. Referrals to such classes are based on need following the Worker's assessment and the availability.

Such classes may be funded through WIA or other funding sources. If the client is referred to WIA for certification and placement, form JTPA-1 is used. Other funding sources may have special referral procedures that the Worker must follow.

B. PARENTING CLASSES

Parenting classes may include information on appropriate discipline, nutrition, health, parent/child interaction, anger and impulse control, hygiene, resources enhancement and other topics as needed.

C. DEPENDENT CARE

A client may meet his work requirement by providing care to an incapacitated adult relative who lives in the client's home. If such care prevents institutionalization, the individual need not be related to the client, or be an adult, but must live in the client's home.

In addition, a client may meet his work requirement by providing care, without pay, to a child or incapacitated adult, when providing this care allows another WV WORKS recipient family to participate in a Community Service program. The care may be provided at any location.

NOTE: Providing dependent care under circumstances other than those described above in this item does not meet the work requirement unless the client is a paid caregiver. When the client is paid, the activity is not a community service activity; it is employment and the number of work hours determines if the work requirement is met.

D. JOB READINESS

NOTE: Job Readiness activities are limited to 6 week per fiscal year to meet the work participation requirement. No more than 4 weeks may be consecutive.

Job Readiness activities are for career planning and self assessment. They are designed to lead the client to take positive first steps toward self sufficiency. These activities also enable clients to recognize that the quality of their lives may be enhanced by becoming employed.

Job Readiness activities are designed to assist the participant in developing skills and a positive attitude toward achieving self-sufficiency through: problem-solving, decision making, interpersonal and communication skills and career exploration. Job Readiness participants learn the importance of entering or re-entering the work force; discover their own worth; recognize the importance of skills developed through life and work experience, acquire in-depth knowledge about potential occupations, define factors that limit employability and develop steps to overcome them, develop skills for managing home, life, and career, and to set realistic career goals and detailed steps in achieving that goal.

Classes must be scheduled for an average of at least 20 hours per week.

Job Readiness may be used as part of the Worker's assessment to determine how the individual will move to self-sufficiency and to complete the PRC.

A record of the participant's progress must be kept. This includes, but is not limited to, a Participant Time Sheet and evaluation, OFS-TS-12.

Flexibility must be maintained so that the client may leave Job Readiness activities at any time to accept employment.

E. VOLUNTEER WORK

Volunteer work may include activities in schools, libraries, government offices and community organizations. The Worker and client agree on the most appropriate location after determining the client's needs and available resources. Volunteer work is distinguished from CWEP and JOIN activities by the fact that the client finds his own volunteer placement and no negotiated agreement between the volunteer site and the Department is required.

Hours of participation are scheduled to best meet the needs of the client and the volunteer site and to meet the client's work requirement.

The staff at the volunteer site must verify hours of participation monthly.

F. PARTICIPATION IN A SHELTERED WORKSHOP

When a disabled individual is referred to DRS, DRS determines if retraining is feasible and if placement in a sheltered workshop is appropriate. Hours of participation and pay must be verified monthly.

G. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT/MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

When the Worker determines that there is a need for substance abuse treatment and/or mental health counseling and the client agrees, a referral must be made to the appropriate source of such services.

Verification of attendance at scheduled sessions is required.

H. SPOKES/EXCEL

SPOKES and EXCEL are six-week open entry job preparation and life skills training programs. Held in six one-week modules, WV WORKS clients can be placed in either of these programs on any given Monday. SPOKES/EXCEL participation hours are reported under the SP activity code in Work Programs.

I. ABE OPTIONS/CHOICES

The ABE Options/Choices training program builds on the existing SPOKES program and is an appropriate referral for WV WORKS clients of all academic levels and job skill levels. Participants who score below the 6th grade in math and reading are placed in a track providing a combination of academic, life, and job skills. Classes offer basic academic skills and life skills such as budgeting, personal, home, and crisis management. Simulated job situations in retail sales, hospitality, and health care areas are included in the training. Clients who score above the 6th grade level and are without a high school diploma are given an opportunity to prepare for their GED and participate in work skills activities before entering SPOKES. Job placement and job retention services for each participant are provided by a job coach in coordination with ABE, SPOKES, and DHHR staff. The core required minimum work hours are met in this program. ABE Options/Choices has no specific time limit and is based on the needs of the individual client. All referrals to this program are made using the DFA-WVW-70 with "ABE Options/Choices" entered on the line beside "Other Training/Service". All participation hours in ABE Options/Choices are reported under the OP component.

J. OTHER ACTIVITIES

This would include activities such as but not limited to:

- Finding and arranging child care
- **Attending FDIC “Money Smart” or another financial literacy training.**
- Arranging Transportation
- Choosing and arranging dental/vision appointments (does not include actual visit or vision/dental services provided)
- Arranging housing
- Attending WV WORKS Orientation
- Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) assessment process
- TABE, Learning Needs Screening, EHI, Work Keys testing
- Social Services MDT meetings
- **Parenting or Marriage Relationship Training**

Any questions about activities not listed in this section must be sent to the Regional Program Managers.