

## 2024 International IPS Learning Community Annual Meeting

Breakout Group: Supported Education

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### **Funding Supported Education: Food for Thought Virginia Selleck**

- Supported education is relevant across the age span, though young people have different types of attention from different federal agencies.
- This brief general overview should be taken with a grain of salt, and as with any funding source, **your best informants will be those people working in the relevant agencies in your state.**
- We are also providing an example from the state of Montana, from Isaac Coy, below.

**Medicaid MRO:** In general, the Rehabilitation Option of Medicaid (MRO) (The State Plan) provides funding for support and rehabilitation for medically necessary services. That means, illness management, help with symptoms that impede recovery, working with the person to organize their activities and providing help with community living and avoiding restrictive levels of care, depending upon the person's individualized plan.

People returning or beginning education programs are likely to need similar supports as those returning to work via IPS, with which you are all familiar.

**Medicaid Waivers** are a different story. Waivers sometimes offer greater flexibility of coverage but they are written with specific groups in mind with a variety of eligibility requirements. States can **theoretically** use existing Medicaid authorities, including 1915(c) Home and Community Based Waivers, 1915(i) State Plan Amendments or 1115 Demonstration Waivers to provide supported education. It is necessary to learn what your own state is doing. This information is usually available on line with a little digging, but you will need to **visit with Medicaid staff to learn the full story.**

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)** can pay tuition, supplies and can certainly offer vocational counseling. VR may (but not frequently) pay maintenance costs for student living expenses. VR pays for school as a **path to an established employment goal that is determined by the individual's plan.**

The age of the person is relevant as well as educational status, i.e. in school, of school age but not in school, and other variables. As is the case with Medicaid, state VR agencies have unique policies which you must learn from your state.

**MONTANA EXAMPLE:** 1915 waiver can pay for habilitation services and the SDMI HCBS waiver pays for supported employment as a distinct service. The state plan covers rehabilitative services intended to restore skills and increase functioning. These could include those rehabilitative supports enabling individuals to work in the community (e.g., TCM, Certified peer support, CBPRS).

CCBHC is still a hypothetical since MT is still waiting to learn if we get awarded the grant. Peer support, TCM, and CBPRS are all included under the 9 required CCBHC services. We did not include the Supported Employment procedure code from the SDMI waiver, T2019, because none of the CCBHC provider candidates currently offer it under the waiver. However, for future providers, T2019 could be considered on the list as an allowable service.