

Questions You May Wish to Ask When Choosing a Job Developer / Job Coach

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Why did you choose to be a job developer/job coach?

I found my passion in this job. I have always enjoyed working with and helping people but this job compliments my personality, values and beliefs. I enjoy assisting people to find employment. Employment is something most people take for granted but it does affect so many portions of your life.

Are you the person who will be working with me?

I am the supervisor of the department. You would be assigned to an employment specialist of your choice. We do have both male and female employment specialist in a variety of ages.

What would you do if you observe a coworker of mine harassing me?

We would intervene with the situation immediately, but we would also like to work directly with you to teach you how to handle these situations in the future.

How long before you can help me get a job?

I cannot give you a concrete answer to this question. Each person is different and the amount of time is different. There are a lot of factors that play into this. It depends a lot on how flexible you are with your schedule and what kind of job you are looking for. Our goal is to assist you to find the right job; not to find you a job quickly.

How often will we meet, talk on the phone, etc.?

This is up to you. We are willing to meet with you as much as you like. We suggest you meet with us at least one time a week.

Do you provide transportation? If no, then ask: What would you suggest?

We do provide transportation during your job search. When you become employed transportation becomes your responsibility. We are available to assist you in arranging that transportation. Typically, people utilize the Bis/Man Transit system or the CAT.

Are you going to do the job search things for me or will you help teach me how to do it myself (i.e. job applications, call potential employers, come to my interview)?

Our goal is for you to be independent. Our program is geared towards individualizing the program to meet your needs. Our long term goal is to teach you the skills so you will have them in the future if needed.

Will you stay with me once I get a job? If I work night shifts, holidays or weekends will you job coach me during these hours? Our program works on a fading process. If you need us to be there 100% of the time during the transition

into new employment we are there. As you get to know the job, we decrease our intervention with you. Our department works around your work schedule and is available during the shifts you work.

What is your criteria for accepting me into your services (do I need to be employed a certain number of hours, can it be seasonal or temporary or self employment)? How long until I need to be independent? If you qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation, you qualify for our program. We accept anyone who has a disability which causes an obstacle towards employment. Our requirement is for you to work with us, keep your appointments and follow through with instructions during the job search. Again each person who enters our program has different needs. We are here to meet your needs. We are able to assist you as long as Vocational Rehabilitation will allow us to.

Will this service cost me money? If yes: How much?

Normally our services are paid through a state agency such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Development Disability Services, or Mental Health Services. We do offer private pay if you do not qualify for these service.

If I am not my own legal guardian how much input will I have?

We will consider all your input. This is your employment and you need to be happy with your job.

How do you help with the transition process to or from another agency?

We like to have a time period were both agencies are involved, if possible. We believe this makes the transition easier for you. We work not only with you but the referring agency to insure the transition is successful.

Developed by Region 7 Interagency Task Force on Transition Subcommittee

You can find this as well as other transition information at: www.dpi.state.nd.us/transitn/index.shtm