

➤ **A Office of Developmental Programs Update – Provided by Kevin Burrell**

Wednesday May 13, 2020

If you have additional questions concerning this update, please contact Kevin Burrell at

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ODP NEWS

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) continues to distribute news via a weekly digest. MyODP News Online shares information about the work of ODP and individuals our work supports who are living that EverydayLife. During these challenging times the articles ODP posts are particularly relevant to coping and remaining healthy amidst changing circumstances due to COVID-19. Here is the link to [MyODP News Online](#) where you can find a list of articles. Recent topics range from an article with resources about how to be creative at home, managing stress and Mental Health Help available during these times. The digest is sent each Friday and contains the week's posted news in abstract. Individuals who received the Self Advocates United as 1 (SAU1) self-advocate edited version of the monthly newsletter will continue to receive that publication via regular mail. If you have information you would like to share about ODP's work supporting people with disabilities, please use my contact information above to submit it for consideration or readers may send inquiries or suggest story ideas to ra-pwmyodp@pa.gov.

Please visit the links below:

- [How Do the Economic Impact Payments Affect the Office of Developmental Programs' \(ODP\) Participants?](#)
- [The ABC's of Augmentative & Alternative Communication \(AAC\)](#)

In conjunction with the Office of Long Term Living, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the PA Youth Leadership Network, and PaTTAN, ODP recorded a podcast/video updating the field on the services and supports from local agencies available during the pandemic.

[YouTube Link to PaTTANpod](#)

[Audio Link to PaTTANpod](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and ODP Operations

During this time when face to face gatherings have been suspended or cancelled ODP remains committed to providing information and training opportunities to Local Task Force participants. Please stay posted for more information about web versions to replace cancelled face to face sessions of ODP sponsored trainings and other gatherings.

Operational Guidance for the ODP system in Response to COVID-19

ODP submitted an Appendix K to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting temporary amendments to ODP's 1915(c) waivers. The purpose of the guidance is to support the ODP service system in adherence to the conditions of the emergency amendments approved in Appendix K and provide specific direction on process, documentation, and health and safety measures. Some examples of changes necessary include:

- The closure of all Community Participation Support facilities – all prevocational and day settings
- Some services can be now delivered remotely (including employment services)
- Some services can now be delivered by family members
- Supports Coordinators must check in with people more frequently to ensure they are healthy, safe and getting the help they need
- Some services can now be delivered in the hospital
- Supported Employment providers can now bill for assistance to individuals applying for and maintaining unemployment benefits

For additional details, please review *Operational Guides for Appendix K: Emergency Preparedness and Response for the Person/Family Directed Support, Community Living, Consolidated and Adult Autism Waivers COVID-19 Statewide* [ODP Announcement 20-027](#)

Updated Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Please visit the following links for the most current information.

- [OPD COVID-19 Update](#)
- [PA Department of Health \(COVID-19\)](#)

Employment Update

Training:

- May 18, 2020 (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM) - Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) will be conducting a webinar as a partner of the Community of Practice on Transition. This webinar will highlight the role of assessment in ODP and OLTL transition services. It will include eligibility, modes of delivery, and how these services fit with those offered by schools and other agencies. The many ways ODP and OLTL can assist students and their families achieve their vision of living an everyday life will also be explored.
 - Audience: Special Education Administrators, Transition Coordinators, Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers, Regular Education Administrators, School Counselors, School Psychologists, Agency Partners, and Families
 - Registration: <https://www.pattan.net/> and click on the training calendar.

Data:

- 17% (7,223) of individuals (ages 18-64) enrolled with ODP are employed in competitive integrated employment (please note that due to lag time in data collection, we do not think this is an accurate representation of the impact on employment related to COVID-19.)

Resources

- ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training) and ODP's Health Care Quality Units have worked together to develop the website aidinpa.org. AID in PA is a resource collection for Pennsylvanians in the autism and intellectual disability communities. ASERT: <https://paautism.org/> Section Break