



Partners Utilization Management Guide: 1915(i) Supported Employment for I/DD and TBI

This guide will be revised once additional communication is received from NC Medicaid

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Service (DVRS), currently known as NC Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD), does not provide a standardized letter to meet the Clinical Coverage Policy 8H-1 requirement for entry into 1915(i) Supported Employment for individuals with Intellectual/Development Disabilities (I/DD) or Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). EIPD does not issue ineligibility letters nor have formal documentation when vocational supports end.

Because this documentation is not available, Partners Health Management is allowing flexibility. Tailored Care Managers (TCM) or Care Coordinators (CC) are expected to ensure that community-based vocational resources have been explored and used before requesting 1915(i) Supported Employment (SE) services.

Accessing 1915(i) Supported Employment:

Members needing support to obtain employment should go through EIPD **before** accessing 1915(i) Supported Employment services.

Partners Utilization Management (UM) must receive documentation showing that:

- The member is ineligible for EIPD, or
- EIPD services have ended

Documentation can include:

- Documentation from EIPD
- Documentation within the Care Plan/ISP
- Written attestation from the TCM/CC (including email)

Members who are already employed and need support to maintain employment should access 1915(i) Supported Employment services. EIPD does not provide services for members who are already employed or who need long-term vocational support.

All documentation must clearly indicate whether the member is seeking employment or is already employed. If documentation is unclear, Partners UM will issue a Request for Information (RFI) for clarification.

Support to Maintain Employment:

Members may request 1915(i) Supported Employment services for job stabilization or long-term support.

Requests must include:

- Work schedule
- Individualized on-the-job support needs
- How services will help the member work as independently as possible

Services should be requested under **H2026 U4—1915(i) Supported Employment Maintenance**

Support to Obtain Employment:

When support is needed to obtain employment, follow the scenarios below to determine next steps and required documentation.

Scenario	Action	Notes/Required Documentation	Service Code
Member already has a 1915(i) Supported Employment authorization.	Request continued support to obtain employment.	If services are needed beyond 180 days, include documentation showing how services continue preparing the member for employment.	H2023 U4 – 1915(i) SE Initial
Member does NOT have a 1915(i) Supported Employment authorization.	Proceed to EIPD screening questions.	—	—
EIPD Screening Questions			
Member has NOT gone to EIPD.	Refer to EIPD for support to obtain employment.	—	—
Member went to EIPD – NOT eligible.	Member can request 1915(i) Supported Employment.	Must include documentation of EIPD ineligibility; first H2023 U4 authorization cannot exceed 180 consecutive days (or 1915(i) eligibility date).	H2023 U4 – 1915(i) SE Initial
Member went to EIPD – Eligible but did NOT receive services (e.g., refused, withdrew, no connection).	Member should reconnect with EIPD for support to obtain employment.	Use EIPD before 1915(i) Supported Employment.	—
Member went to EIPD – Eligible and services are ongoing or scheduled to continue.	Member should continue with EIPD supports.	Transition to 1915(i) Supported Employment once EIPD supports have ended.	—
Member went to EIPD – Eligible and EIPD support has ended or is scheduled to end.	Member may transition to 1915(i) Supported Employment.	Must include documentation that EIPD support ended; first H2023 U4 authorization cannot exceed 180 consecutive days (or 1915(i) eligibility date).	H2023 U4 – SE Initial (job training/obtaining employment) OR H2026 U4 – SE Maintenance (stabilization/long-term support)