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Open Future Learning FAQs

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Direct support professionals

Do all DSPs in my organization have to take advantage of this at one time or can I only submit a proposal for a certain number of DSPs?

All your DSPs do not have to take advantage of this at that same time, it can be a select number of DSPs.

If I say we want to enroll 50 DSP staff then two quit, can I replace them with two other staff?
Yes.

Would this stipend apply to DSPs who work in a Supervised Group Living/Group Home? The stipend is available to any person who is providing direct support to an individual. SGL staff are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity.

Even though recreational therapists are not typically regarded as DSPs, can they still take advantage of this opportunity?

Yes, they are welcome to take advantage of this. Any person who is providing direct support to an individual qualifies as a DSP for this initiative.

Are Behavior Consultants eligible for this opportunity? Yes, anyone who provides direct support to an individual can apply for this opportunity.

Modules

Is there a limit on the number of modules that are available for the stipend? The stipend will only cover three modules over the course of the year; however, the DSP will have access to view all the modules.

For DSPs who will be taking advantage of this, do they have to complete three modules within a month or over the course of the stipend?

It would be over the course of the year that they have the requirements around receiving the stipend.



Are all modules eligible for the stipend? What about mini-modules and side-by-side modules? All modules are eligible for the three-module requirement, including the mini-modules. BDDS does encourage the side by-side modules as those are intended for the DSPs.

Will we need to create our own follow-up form or is that the Reflective Action Plan?
You would utilize the Reflective Action Plan.

What is the average completion time of the training?

When you are on the OFL webpage, it will tell you how long it takes to complete each module; the time varies.

How long does a DSP have to complete a module after they have started it?

A DSP has 30 days to complete a module after they have started it.

I need some clarification about meeting with the DSP and talking about the Reflective Action Plan. Is it every month or once every six months?

You are committing to meet on a regular basis (at least monthly) with the DSP to touch base about the learning. This includes meeting with the DSP within six months of completion of the RAP to revisit the training concepts.

Stipend

Is the stipend limited to a one-year period?

Yes. The stipend is to cover one year of OFL training.

Will the stipend amount from the state be disbursed in one lump sum?

Yes. It will be disbursed via the Medicaid Gainwell Portal in a lump sum after your proposal is approved.

How would you suggest we calculate the stipend amount for DSP training costs?

Your proposal should include the amount of funding you will require in the form of a stipend to cover salary costs (if modules and activities cannot be completed during work time without backup staffing). This would include the amount of time to take the training, as well as the assessments and supervisor meetings. In the OFL platform link, if you go to the modules and click on the read more about this module, it will state how long it takes to complete. It is appropriate to utilize your agency's DSP hourly rate, overtime rate or training rate for this calculation.

With the stipend request, can I include funding needed to cover associated administrative costs to facilitate the oversight of these trainings and complete follow-up with the DSP staff?

Yes. It is appropriate to request a stipend for this as well.

Can I come back again and ask for another round of stipends for additional DSP training?

Yes. You can be approved now and later submit another proposal for consideration for additional DSPs to be trained. If there is funding still available at that time, your proposal would be reviewed.

General

Is there a deadline of when the proposal needs to be submitted?

There is not a current deadline. We will continue to accept proposals until we are near the funding deadline, or the funding has run out.

How much detail should we include in the proposal around the stipend?

It is important to include as much detail as possible in your proposal around how you have calculated the stipend amount. This would include the hourly rate utilized and how many hours you anticipate a DSP will be devoting to this initiative. If you are requesting administrative costs or supply costs, you would include detail around how this was calculated as well as what those administrative would look like.

We already have a subscription for Open Future Learning. Can we still take advantage of this opportunity?

Yes. You may submit a proposal to add subscriptions to your already existing OFL account. Stipends can be requested for those new subscriptions as well as the current one. If your proposal is approved, BDDS will take overpaying for your current account during this proposal time.

We just signed an agreement with another company for training needs. Is there any consideration for extending this particular opportunity to potentially include other training platforms?

Currently, we are only offering this proposal opportunity through Open Future Learning.

I submitted a registration form for this program and am wondering what the timeline is for a response if our proposal is approved.

You should be contacted within a few weeks if we have additional questions or if you are approved.

Is it possible that only a portion of my cost breakdown will be approved, and I can adjust our learning plan accordingly?

It is possible only a portion would be approved.

We would love the opportunity to share ideas and suggestions on other types of trainings OFL could offer. Should we share these with OFL?

100%! If you wish to reach out to Open Futures Learning directly, you may contact them at hello@openfuturelearning.org.

Does OFL provide reporting on completion time and what has been done for all users?

Yes, module progress reports can be run by any administrator on the account.

Beyond the administration who will be distributing the licenses, will any other admin have access to supervise progress?

Once an organization is set up, the primary administrator will be able to add as many additional administrators and supervisors as they would like. As a reminder, the organizations will only be limited by the number of active users. A user is considered active for 30 days from enrolling in a module or video on demand. Both administrators and supervisors can receive emails when users complete a module, but only administrators will be able to add/suspend/change user access on the account.

We are interested in this opportunity but would like a demonstration on the OFL platform before we decide. Is this possible?

Yes, if you would like a demonstration, please contact BDDS.HELP@fssa.in.gov and we can get this set up.