



# WHAT IS E1MN?

E1MN means Employment First Minnesota. Minnesota plans to support people with disabilities to find jobs. Your waiver case manager, employment service provider, and vocational rehabilitation counselor work together. They help you find and keep a job. There are four parts to E1MN. Engage, Plan, Find, and Keep.

## 1. Engage

***This part is paid for by your waiver.*** This is a chance for you to learn more about working and what it means for you. It is a time for you to ask questions so that you can make an informed choice. You will work with an employment service provider during this phase.

## 2. Plan

***This is also paid for by your waiver.\**** A job developer from an employment service provider will work with you. They will learn about your interests and strengths. They will also help you get ready for a job search. The job developer will work with you to learn about different kinds of jobs. This may include watching jobs or visiting workplaces. You'll make a resume to tell employers about your skills. And, you'll practice job skills like interviewing.

## 3. Find

***Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) pays for someone to help you find a job.*** This person will help you apply for jobs, talk to employers, and support you with interviews. It could be the same employment service provider. They help you engage, plan, and keep. Or it could be a different provider.

## 4. Keep

***Once you find a job, a job coach from an employment service provider can help you learn how to do your job.*** They will also check in with you to make sure things are going well. They will help you solve any problems you might have with your employer. Your waiver will pay for this service.

Some employment service providers work with both VRS and waivers.\* Finding a provider who does both can make the process easier for you! When you are looking for employment support, your waiver case manager can help you with this.

### **Waiver Case Manager\***

Your county or tribal government will assign you a waiver case manager. They can help you identify, access, and navigate employment support and services. They can also give you information a person needs to make informed choices about working. Hennepin County Funded DD Employment Services and case management may be available for those not on a waiver with DD Rule 185 eligibility.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**

A vocational rehabilitation counselor works for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. They will work with your employment service provider to help you find a job. The job will fit your skills and interests. They might help you get special equipment to be able to do your job or pay for training to help you get a job.

### **Employment Service Provider**

They help you make informed decisions about work. Then, they help you set and reach work goals.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BENEFITS IF I WORK?



## **SSI has work incentives**

They help people on SSI work without worrying about losing their benefits. SSI lets you keep some of your money without reducing your benefits. SSI doesn't count all of the money you earn when they figure out how much SSI you will get. They also subtract disability expenses from your income. They do this before they calculate your SSI payment. SSI also makes it easy to get back on SSI if your job doesn't work out.

## **SSDI work incentives**

You can have a trial work period. It lets you try working without losing your SSDI benefits. You can earn a certain amount of money and still keep your SSDI benefits. If your income goes over the limit, you can keep your SSDI for a few more months to make sure that your job works out.

## **Health benefits**

If your income is low enough, your Medical Assistance will not be cut. Once you start making more money, you can keep your Medical Assistance. There is a special program for people with disabilities who work. You pay a monthly fee —like an insurance premium, and you can stay on Medical Assistance. This will help you keep the supports you use in place.

## **ABLE accounts**

ABLE accounts let you save money without hurting your benefits. You can put money in your ABLE account with money you earn from a job. Family members can also put money into an ABLE account for you. ABLE accounts can pay for things you need because of your disability. You can pay for food or transportation. You can pay for school or job training. You pay for a home and for someone to help you at home.

## **Where to get help**

Don't worry! You don't have to figure this out on your own. Trained benefits planners can help you understand disability benefits. They also explain how work affects them. Their goal is to help you understand how work and your benefits can work together. Contact the Disability Hub to get your questions answered, [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466.

# HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Talk to your county or tribal case manager to find services and supports to help you get a job.

## What if I don't have a case manager?

Contact Disability Hub at [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466. They can connect you with resources to find a job. In Hennepin County you can make a referral for case management services by contacting Front Door Social Services at: 612-348-4111 option 0

## What will happen first?

You will be able to ask about working. You can ask how it affects your benefits and what support can help you work. This will help you decide if competitive integrated employment is for you.

## Then what happens?

You will work with a job developer. You will learn about jobs that fit your skills and interests. You might visit different workplaces. You might try out different jobs or have interviews to learn about a job. You might use this time to learn new skills and to develop a resume. During this time, you will also learn if there are supports that would help you do your job.

## What if I know what kind of job I want?

Once you know what kind of job you want, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) will help you find a job. They will assign someone to work with you on your job search. They will help you fill out applications. They will go to interviews with you and talk to employers about your skills. They will also help you get any work supports you need.

## I got the job! Now what?

You will work with a job coach who will help you learn your job. Once you know your job, they will check to make sure things are going well.



**Customized Employment (CE)** is another way of finding competitive integrated employment. CE matches the strengths, skills, and abilities of people with significant disabilities. It matches them with the unmet needs of employers.



# WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF WORKING?

## Financial security

People who work in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) earn more money. Social Security and benefits programs have rules that promote work. These rules let you work, earn, and save more.

## Learn new skills

CIE gives you the opportunity to use the skills you have. It also gives you an opportunity to learn new skills. Learning new skills can help you feel more confident and feel accomplished.

## Build new relationships

People who have CIE meet new people at work. They have a bigger social network. This can help you have stronger connections with your community.

## Increase Independence

People who have CIE have more independence. Earning more, learning new skills, and having a big social network can all help you be more independent.

## Have a sense of purpose

Working is one way that people have a sense of purpose. Having purpose means that you have meaningful activities and goals. This can help you be healthier physically and mentally.

### Still Have Questions?

Contact the Disability Hub to get your questions answered. Visit [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466.

# COMMUNITY LIFE ENGAGEMENT



## What is Community Life Engagement?

Community Life Engagement is support to help you take part in your community. It is for when you are not at work.

## What is the benefit of Community Life Engagement?

When you find a job, your employer may not need you daily or only need you for part of a day. Community Life Engagement means you can do activities that matter to you. You can do them when you are not working. Community Life Engagement can help you try new things. It can help you learn new skills and meet new people.



## What kinds of things would I be doing?

It depends on your interests and what is important to you! Some people volunteer. Some people work on their hobbies or follow other interests. Some people join groups of other people with the same interests. The goal is to help you be an active participant in your community.



## What if I don't know what I want to do?

A provider agency will work with you to identify your skills and interests. They will help you find opportunities that are a good fit for you. They can also help you explore activities to see what you like.

## How do I learn more about Community Life Engagement?

Your case manager can connect you with provider agencies. You can ask them how they support people to take part in Community Life Engagement.

You can also contact the Disability Hub. They can give you more information and answer your questions. Visit their website at [www.disabilityhubmn.org](http://www.disabilityhubmn.org) or call them at 1-866-333-2466