

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Rehabilitation Council, and the Oregon Commission for the Blind are conducting a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. The assessment describes the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities who live in Oregon. As part of the needs assessment, we are inviting your child to participate in a focus group, or small group discussion, about their need for and experience with pre-employment transition services (job exploration, work-based learning, or post-secondary counseling). Questions about the coordination between education providers and Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation will also be asked.

If you give permission for your child to participate in the focus group, your child will participate in the focus group during their Camp LEAD experience. We will ask them open ended questions about their perspective on strengths and barriers to employment, their experience with pre-employment transition services, and coordination with education services.

What are we asking youth to do? We are asking participants to take part in a one-hour focus group in a small group setting during their time at Camp LEAD. They will be asked open ended questions about their perspective and experience. Your child will receive a \$20 visa gift card for participating.

How will information be used in the needs assessment? The needs assessment results may not improve individual services for your child. The information will be used to improve the overall vocational rehabilitation program planning and future service delivery. Information collected during the focus group will be used only for the needs assessment, and PPI's permission to use the information will expire at the end of the needs assessment contract in Fall 2017.

What are the risks or benefits of participating in the focus group? The focus group has very little risk for your child. Your child can choose whether or not to participate in the focus group, respond to any question, and to stop at any time. Your child's responses will remain anonymous and no names will be included in the report.

Is participation voluntary? Yes. We would like your child to participate in the focus group, but your child can choose whether or not to participate in the focus group, respond to any question, and to stop at any time.

Who is collecting the information at the focus groups? Program and Policy Insight (PPI) has been hired by the state to conduct the needs assessment, including the focus groups. If you have any questions about participation in the focus group you may contact the Project Director, Kendra Lodewick, at 541.514.2687 or klodewick@programandpolicy.com

If you would like your child to participate in the focus group, please complete and return the permission form. If you do not return the permission form, your child will not be able participate in the study. You do not need to complete the form if your child will be 18 years or older as of May 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Kendra Lodewick
PPI Project Director