I. Additional text from the Iowa Administrative Code in support of the state’s determination that the Habilitation rules support the CMS setting regulations.

The definitions identified in IAC 441-78.27(1) Definitions., support community integration and full access to the greater community including opportunity to seek employment. For example, the definition section of the Habilitation rules includes:

“Assessment” means the review of the current functioning of the member using the service in regard to the member’s situation, needs, strengths, abilities, desires, and goals.

“Comprehensive service plan” means an individualized, goal-oriented plan of services written in language understandable by the member using the service and developed collaboratively by the member and the case manager.

Note: The state of Iowa promotes the use of person centered planning and believes that the Iowa Administrative Code rules support the member to be actively involved in the development of services that are individualized based on the needs and desires of the member. The role of the Case Manager is to assist the member to identify needed services to assist the member to develop and implement a service plan that focuses on the wants and needs of the member and give the member the authority to make decisions and direct the services they receive.

That being said, the state will promulgate rules to clarify and strengthen the IAC to identify and enhance current rule language for all HCBS Waiver programs and Habilitation services to fully support the CMS settings rules and person centered planning rules. The timeline for rule promulgation is identified in section 2.3.5 of the STP.

II. New rules for Supported Employment were promulgated May 4, 2016. A complete listing of the new rules is included in attachment B of this application.

Definitions for supported employment services, available to any habilitation member that is 16 years of age or over state:

“Benefits education” means providing basic information to understand and access appropriate resources to pursue employment, and knowledge of work incentives and the Medicaid for employed persons with disabilities (MEPD) program. Benefits education may include gathering information needed to pursue work incentives and offering basic financial management information to members, families, guardians and legal representatives.

“Career exploration,” also referred to as “career planning,” means a person-centered, comprehensive employment planning and support service that provides assistance for
waiver program participants to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive employment or self-employment. Career exploration is a focused, time-limited service engaging a participant in identifying a career direction and developing a plan for achieving competitive, integrated employment at or above the state’s minimum wage. The outcome of this service is documentation of the participant’s stated career objective and a career plan used to guide individual employment support.

“Customized employment” means an approach to supported employment which individualizes the employment relationship between employees and employers in ways that meet the needs of both. Customized employment is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs, and interests of the person with a disability and is also designed to meet the specific needs of the employer. Customized employment may include employment developed through job carving, self-employment or entrepreneurial initiatives, or other job development or restructuring strategies that result in job responsibilities being customized and individually negotiated to fit the needs of the individual with a disability. Customized employment assumes the provision of reasonable accommodations and supports necessary for the individual to perform the functions of a job that is individually negotiated and developed.

“Individual employment” means employment in the general workforce where the member interacts with the general public to the same degree as nondisabled persons in the same job, and for which the member is paid at or above minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by persons without disabilities.

“Individual placement and support” means an evidence-based supported employment model that helps people with mental illness to seek and obtain employment. “Integrated community employment” means work (including self-employment) for which an individual with a disability is paid at or above minimum wage and not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by employees who are not disabled, where the individual interacts with other persons who are not disabled to the same extent as others who are in comparable positions, and which presents opportunities for advancement that are similar to those for employees who are not disabled. In the case of an individual who is self-employed, the business results in an income that is comparable to the income received by others who are not disabled and are self-employed in similar occupations.

“Supported employment” means the ongoing supports to participants who, because of their disabilities, need intensive ongoing support to obtain and maintain an individual job in competitive or customized employment, or self-employment, in an integrated work setting in the general workforce at or above the state’s minimum wage or at or above the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities. The outcome of this service is sustained paid employment at or above the minimum wage in an integrated setting in the general workforce in a job that meets personal and career goals. Supported employment services can be provided through many different service models.
“Supported self-employment” includes services and supports that assist the participant in achieving self-employment through the operation of a business; however, Medicaid funds may not be used to defray the expenses associated with starting up or operating a business. Assistance for self-employment may include aid to the individual in identifying potential business opportunities; assistance in the development of a business plan, including potential sources of business financing and other assistance in developing and launching a business; identification of the supports necessary for the individual to operate the business; and ongoing assistance, counseling and guidance once the business has been launched. “Sustained employment” means an individual employment situation that the member maintains over time but not for less than 90 calendar days following the receipt of employment services and supports

II. Prevocational services within the Habilitation, ID and BI Waivers:

78.27(9) Prevocational service habilitation. “Prevocational services” means services that provide career exploration, learning and work experiences, including volunteer opportunities, where the member can develop non-job-task-specific strengths and skills that lead to paid employment in individual community settings.

a. Scope. Prevocational services are provided to persons who are expected to be able to join the general workforce with the assistance of supported employment. Prevocational services are intended to develop and teach general employability skills relevant to successful participation in individual employment. These skills include but are not limited to the ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, coworkers and customers; an understanding of generally accepted community workplace conduct and dress; the ability to follow directions; the ability to attend to tasks; workplace problem-solving skills and strategies; general workplace safety and mobility training; the ability to navigate local transportation options; financial literacy skills; and skills related to obtaining employment.

Prevocational services include career exploration activities to facilitate successful transition to individual employment in the community. Participation in prevocational services is not a prerequisite for individual or small-group supported employment services.

(1) Career exploration. Career exploration activities are designed to develop an individual career plan and facilitate the member’s experientially based informed choice regarding the goal of individual employment. Career exploration may be provided in small groups of no more than four members to participate in career exploration activities that include business tours, attending industry education events, benefit information, financial literacy classes, and attending career fairs. Career exploration may be authorized for up to 34 hours, to be completed over 90 days in the member’s local community or nearby communities and may include but is not limited to the following activities:
1. Meeting with the member and the member’s family, guardian or legal representative to introduce them to supported employment and explore the member’s employment goals and experiences,
2. Business tours,
3. Informational interviews,
4. Job shadows,
5. Benefits education and financial literacy,
6. Assistive technology assessment, and
7. Job exploration events.

(2) Expected outcome of service

1. The expected outcome of prevocational services is individual employment in the general workforce, or self-employment, in a setting typically found in the community, where the member interacts with individuals without disabilities, other than those providing services to the member or other individuals with disabilities, to the same extent that individuals without disabilities in comparable positions interact with other persons; and for which the member is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities.

2. The expected outcome of the career exploration activity is a written career plan that will guide employment services which lead to community employment or self-employment for the member.

b. Setting. Prevocational services shall take place in community-based nonresidential settings.

III. Supported employment rules applicable to members age 16 years and older on the Habilitation, ID and BI Waiver programs:

78.27(10) Supported employment services.
a. Individual supported employment. Individual supported employment involves supports provided to, or on behalf of, the member that enable the member to obtain and maintain individual employment. Services are provided to members who need support because of their disabilities.
(1) Scope. Individual supported employment services are services provided to, or on behalf of, the member that enable the member to obtain and maintain an individual job in competitive employment, customized employment or self-employment in an integrated work setting in the general workforce.
(2) Expected outcome of service. The expected outcome of this service is sustained employment, or self-employment, paid at or above the minimum wage or the customary wage and level of benefits paid by an employer, in an integrated setting in the general workforce, in a job that meets personal and career goals. Successful transition to long-term job coaching, if needed, is also an expected outcome of this service. An expected outcome of supported self-employment is that the member earns income that is equal to
or exceeds the average income for the chosen business within a reasonable period of time.

(3) Setting. Individual supported employment services shall take place in integrated work settings. For self-employment, the member’s home can be considered an integrated work setting. Employment in the service provider’s organization (not including a sheltered workshop or similar type of work setting where members are paid for the production of goods or services) can be considered employment in an integrated work setting in the general workforce if the employment occurs in a work setting where interactions are predominantly with coworkers or business associates who do not have disabilities or with the general public.

(4) Individual employment strategies include but are not limited to: customized employment, individual placement and support, and supported self-employment. Service activities are individualized and may include any combination of the following:
1. Benefits education.
2. Career exploration (e.g., tours, informational interviews, job shadows).
5. Trial work experience.
6. Person-centered employment planning.
7. Development of visual/traditional résumés.
8. Job-seeking skills training and support.
9. Outreach to prospective employers on behalf of the member (e.g., job development; negotiation with prospective employers to customize, create or carve out a position for the member; employer needs analysis).
10. Job analysis (e.g., work site assessment or job accommodations evaluation).
11. Identifying and arranging transportation.
12. Career advancement services (e.g., assisting a member in making an upward career move or seeking promotion from an existing employer).
13. Reemployment services (if necessary due to job loss).
14. Financial literacy and asset development.
15. Other employment support services deemed necessary to enable the member to obtain employment.
16. Systematic instruction and support during initial on-the-job training including initial on-the-job training to stabilization.
17. Engagement of natural supports during initial period of employment.
18. Implementation of assistive technology solutions during initial period of employment.
19. Transportation of the member during service hours.
20. Initial on-the-job training to stabilization activity

(5) Self-employment. Individual employment may also include support to establish a viable self-employment opportunity, including home-based self-employment. An expected outcome of supported self-employment is that the member earns income that is equal to or exceeds the average income for the chosen business within a reasonable period of time. In addition to the activities listed under subparagraph 78.27(10)“a”(4), assistance to establish self-employment may include:
1. Aid to the member in identifying potential business opportunities.
2. Assistance in the development of a business plan, including identifying potential sources of business financing and other assistance in developing and launching a business.

3. Identification of the long-term supports necessary for the individual to operate the business.

b. Long-term job coaching. Long-term job coaching is support provided to, or on behalf of, the member that enables the member to maintain an individual job in competitive employment, customized employment or self-employment in an integrated work setting in the general workforce.

(1) Scope. Long-term job coaching services are provided to or on behalf of members who need support because of their disabilities and who are unlikely to maintain and advance in individual employment absent the provision of supports. Long-term job coaching services shall provide individualized and ongoing support contacts at intervals necessary to promote successful job retention and advancement.

(2) Expected outcome of service. The expected outcome of this service is sustained employment paid at or above the minimum wage in an integrated setting in the general workforce, in a job that meets the member’s personal and career goals. An expected outcome of supported self-employment is that the member earns income that is equal to or exceeds the average income for the chosen business within a reasonable period of time.

(3) Setting. Long-term job coaching services shall take place in integrated work settings. For self-employment, the member’s home can be considered an integrated work setting. Employment in the service provider’s organization (not including a sheltered workshop or similar type of work setting) can be considered employment in an integrated work setting in the general workforce if the employment occurs in a work setting where interactions are predominantly with coworkers or business associates who do not have disabilities, or with the general public, and if the position would exist within the provider’s organization were the provider not being paid to provide the job coaching to the member.

(4) Service activities. Long-term job coaching services are designed to assist the member with learning and retaining individual employment, resulting in workplace integration, and which allows for the reduction of long-term job coaching over time. Services are individualized, and service plans are adjusted as support needs change and may include any combination of the following activities with or on behalf of the member:

1. Job analysis.
2. Job training and systematic instruction.
3. Training and support for use of assistive technology/adaptive aids.
5. Transportation coordination.
6. Job retention training and support.
7. Benefits education and ongoing support.
8. Supports for career advancement.
10. Employer consultation and support.
c. Small-group supported employment. Small-group supported employment services are training and support activities provided in regular business or industry settings for groups of two to eight workers with disabilities. The outcome of this service is sustained paid employment experience, skill development, career exploration and planning leading to referral for services to obtain individual integrated employment or self-employment for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities.

(1) Scope. Small-group supported employment services must be provided in a manner that promotes integration into the workplace and interaction between members and people without disabilities (e.g., customers, coworkers, natural supports) in those workplaces. Examples include but are not limited to mobile crews and other business-based workgroups employing small groups of workers with disabilities in employment in integrated business settings; and small-group activities focused on career exploration and development of strengths and skills that contribute to successful participation in individual community employment.

(2) Expected outcome of service. Small-group supported employment services are expected to enable the member to make reasonable and continued progress toward individual employment. Participation in small-group supported employment services is not a prerequisite for individual supported employment services. The expected outcome of the service is sustained paid employment and skill development which leads to individual employment in the community.

(3) Setting. Small-group supported employment services shall take place in integrated, community-based nonresidential settings separate from the member’s residence.

(4) Service activities. Small-group supported employment services may include any combination of the following activities:

1. Employment assessment.
2. Person-centered employment planning.
3. Job placement (limited to service necessary to facilitate hire into individual employment paid at minimum wage or higher for a member in small-group supported employment who receives an otherwise unsolicited offer of a job from a business where the member has been working in a mobile crew or enclave).
4. Job analysis.
5. On-the-job training and systematic instruction.
7. Transportation planning and training.
9. Career exploration services leading to career advancement outcomes.
10. Other workplace support services may include services not specifically related to job skill training that enable the waiver member to be successful in integrating into the individual or community setting. 11. Transportation of the member during service hours.

d. Service requirements for all supported employment services.

(1) Community transportation options (e.g., transportation provided by family, coworkers, carpools, volunteers, self or public transportation) shall be identified by the member’s interdisciplinary team and utilized before the service provider provides the
transportation to and from work for the member. If none of these options are available to
a member, transportation between the member’s place of residence and the
employment or service location may be included as a component part of supported
employment services.
(2) Personal care or personal assistance and protective oversight may be a component
part of supported employment services, but may not comprise the entirety of the
service.
(3) Activities performed on behalf of a member receiving long-term job coaching or
individual or small-group supported employment shall not comprise the entirety of the
service.
(4) Concurrent services. A member’s individual service plan may include two or more
types of nonresidential services (e.g., individual supported employment, long-term job
coaching, small-group supported employment, prevocational services, and day
habilitation); however, more than one service may not be billed during the same period
of time (e.g., the same hour).
(5) Integration requirements. In the performance of job duties, the member shall have
regular contact with other employees or members of the general public who do not have
disabilities, unless the absence of regular contact with other employees or the general
public is typical for the job as performed by persons without disabilities.
(6) Compensation. Members receiving these services are compensated at or above the
minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the
employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities.
For supported self-employment, the member earns income that is equal to or exceeds the
average income for the chosen business within a reasonable period of time. For small-
group supported employment, if the member is not compensated at or above minimum
wage, the compensation to the member shall be in accordance with all applicable state
and federal labor laws and regulations.

IV. Habilitation rules in support of person centered planning:

Definitions in IAC 441-77.27(1):

78.27(4) Comprehensive service plan. Individualized, planned, and appropriate services
shall be guided by a member-specific comprehensive service plan or treatment plan
developed with the member in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team, as
appropriate. Medically necessary services shall be planned for and provided at the
locations where the member lives, learns, works, and socializes. a. Development. A
comprehensive service plan or treatment plan shall be developed for each member
receiving home- and community-based habilitation services based on the member’s
current assessment and shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
(1) The case manager or the integrated health home care coordinator shall establish an
interdisciplinary team for the member. The team shall include the case manager or
integrated health home care coordinator and the member and, if applicable, the
member’s legal representative, the member’s family, the member’s service providers,
and others directly involved.
(2) With the interdisciplinary team, the case manager or integrated health home care coordinator shall identify the member’s services based on the member’s needs, the availability of services, and the member’s choice of services and providers. 
(3) The comprehensive service plan development shall be completed at the member’s home or at another location chosen by the member. 
(4) The interdisciplinary team meeting shall be conducted before the current comprehensive service plan expires. 
(5) The comprehensive service plan shall reflect desired individual outcomes. 
(6) Services defined in the comprehensive service plan shall be appropriate to the severity of the member’s problems and to the member’s specific needs or disabilities. 
(7) Activities identified in the comprehensive service plan shall encourage the ability and right of the member to make choices, to experience a sense of achievement, and to modify or continue participation in the treatment process. 
(8) For members receiving home-based habilitation in a licensed residential care facility of 16 or fewer beds, the service plan shall address the member’s opportunities for independence and community integration. 
(9) The initial comprehensive service plan or treatment plan and annual updates to the comprehensive service plan or treatment plan must be approved by the IME medical services unit in ISIS before services are implemented. Services provided before the approval date are not payable. The written comprehensive service plan or treatment plan must be completed, signed and dated by the case manager, integrated health home care coordinator, or service worker within 30 calendar days after plan approval. 
(10) Any changes to the comprehensive service plan or treatment plan must be approved by the IME medical services unit for members not eligible to enroll in a managed care organization in ISIS before the implementation of services. Services provided before the approval date are not payable.