

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT EVIDENCE-BASED PRINCIPLES

1. All interested clients are eligible.

Motivation to work is an important predictor of success. Therefore, clients are not screened out from receiving Supported Employment services for any reasons.

2. Supported Employment is closely integrated with mental health treatment.

Employment specialists meet frequently with the mental health treatment team to coordinate plans and to solve problems from a strengths-based perspective.

3. Competitive employment is the goal.

Supported Employment focuses on regular jobs in the community, not jobs created for people with disabilities. All jobs pay at least minimum wage and can be part-time or full-time.

4. The job search is rapid.

There are no requirements for completing extensive pre-employment assessment and training, or intermediate work experiences. Employment Specialists help clients start job search within a few weeks of the first Supported Employment appointment.

5. Client preferences are important.

Choices and decisions about work and support are individualized based on clients' preferences, strengths, and experiences.

6. Follow-along supports are continuous.

Individualized supports to maintain employment continue as long as the consumer wants assistance.

7. Benefits planning is comprehensive and ongoing.

Clients are provided with accurate and comprehensive information about the impact of earned income and work incentives specific to each client's circumstances. Clients are offered ongoing help with benefits as their goals and jobs change over time.

8. Employment Specialists build relationships with employers.

Building relationships with employers can help job seekers who do not have recent work experience or other barriers to employment.