SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT: FACTS

What are the benefits of working?

- Increases economic self-sufficiency and purchasing power
- Provides meaningful activities
- Improves emotional well-being and self-esteem
- Improves social connectedness
- Provides opportunities to advance interpersonal skills and develop other abilities
- Increases opportunities for retirement benefits, professional development, and improved social security benefits

What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment (SE) is a program designed to assist individuals facing mental health challenges in finding competitive employment while providing continuous support. It empowers individuals to obtain and maintain meaningful jobs in the community, aligning with their preferences, strengths, experiences, interests, and talents.

How does Supported Employment work?

Supported Employment integrates employment with rehabilitative support. Employment specialists conduct career assessments, facilitate job placements, offer benefits planning, and deliver job-related support. They work closely with treatment teams, which include case managers, therapists, psychiatrists, and the individuals themselves, to coordinate personalized employment plans.

- **Personal Choice:** The combination of personal choice, along with an individual's strengths and experiences, is essential.
- **Competitive Work:** Employment specialists help individuals find competitive job opportunities, including part-time and hourly positions that meet minimum wage standards. They also support skill development after enrollment in the program, with no prerequisites for the pre-employment assessment and training.
- **Continuous support.** Employment specialists provide individuals with ongoing support necessary to ensure their success in the workplace.
- **Benefits counseling.** Employment specialists assist individuals in understanding how working affects their benefits, such as Social Security or Medicaid. Most people can earn income while still receiving benefits, which may be adjusted according to earnings.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Supported Employment important?

Supported Employment is a service that helps individuals with mental health challenges become active participants in the workforce and earn a wage. Research shows that people who utilize this service experience increased social connections and higher incomes. Additionally, over time, Supported Employment has proven to be more cost-effective compared to other employment services.

Who is eligible for Supported Employment?

- Resident of New Jersey
- At least 18 years old
- Diagnosed with a mental illness
- Legally authorized to work in the U.S.
- Interest to work

Do employers hire individuals?

Yes. Supported Employment programs assist qualified individuals in finding job opportunities that align with their skills and experience.

How do Supported Employment services help when experiencing mental health symptoms?

Employment Specialists receive training in mental health issues and collaborate closely with individuals and their treatment teams to help balance mental health needs with employment demands.

Where can services be accessed?

In New Jersey, the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) contracts with 20 community mental health agencies to provide Supported Employment services in 20 NJ counties.

For a listing of Supported Employment agencies, please visit:

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/home

NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Office of Treatment & Recovery Support

State of New Jersey
Mikie Sherrill, Governor

NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES DMHAS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

New Jersey Human Services
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Dr. Stephen Cha, Commissioner