

Supported Employment



VALLEYLIFE

Changing Lives. Creating Community.

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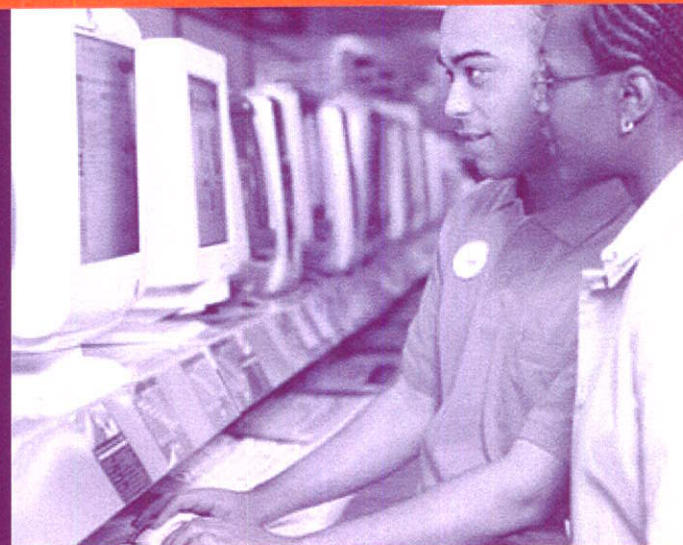


EVIDENCE-BASED
 PRACTICES

KIT

Knowledge Informing Transformation

Evidence-based treatment works



*Helping people with mental illnesses
 find and keep jobs*

What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment helps people with mental illnesses find and keep meaningful jobs in the community.

Why participate in Supported Employment?

When people feel good about having a job, they often see themselves in a more positive way. Work gives people structure and routines. Having an income gives them more choices about what to buy and where to live.

How does Supported Employment work?

- **Consumer choice** No one is excluded from participating.
- **Integrated services** Employment specialists closely coordinate with other rehabilitation and clinical treatment practitioners, creating a comprehensive treatment program.
- **Competitive jobs** Employment specialists help people find jobs in the open labor market that pay at least minimum wage and that anyone could have, regardless of their disability status.
- **Benefits counseling** Employment specialists help people understand how benefits (such as Social Security or Medicaid) are affected by working. Most people are able to work and continue to receive some benefits.
- **Timely support** Employment specialists help people look for jobs soon after they enter the program.
- **Continuous supports** Once a job is found, employment specialists provide ongoing support, as needed.
- **Consumer preferences** Choices about work are based on a person's preferences, strengths, and experiences.

Supported Employment programs help anyone who wants to work