Making the Case for Supported Employment
Helping People with Mental Illnesses Find Work

**What Is It?**

- **Zero exclusion policy** extends to anyone who wants to work.
- Integrates vocational & clinical services.
- People secure competitive jobs in the community rather than sheltered workshops.
- People are more likely to work when their jobs reflect their interests & skills.

**What do we know?**

- People want to work: Most adults with mental illnesses want to work.
- Yet 80% are not employed: 2/3 of them can hold down jobs with support.
- Work supports recovery: Workers have fewer MH symptoms & hospital stays.
- Jobs confer dignity & higher quality of life: Workers need fewer services & public benefits.

**Supported employment works:**

- People get & keep high quality jobs.
- Work improves people’s financial security.
- SE is more cost-effective than other services.

**After 5 years...**

- More likely to be employed & have higher wages.
- Less likely to rely on employment services.
- Less likely to be hospitalized.

**After 10+ years...**

- Almost 3 times as likely to be employed.
- Significantly higher monthly earnings.
- Reduced dependence on public benefit.
- Legal status, higher monthly earnings.

**What about long-term?**

- Reduced dependence on public benefits.

**Ready to adopt it?**

- What States Need to Know & Do
  - Plan for the impact of your labor market on program and client success.

**Sources:**


**Brought to you by:**

- The Center is funded by NIDILRR & CMHS
- Judith A. Cook, PhD, Director