Supported Employment: The Facts

What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment (SE) helps consumers find and maintain meaningful jobs in the community.

When we feel good about having a job, we often see ourselves in a more positive way. Work provides structure and routines. Job income gives us more choices about what to buy, where to live, and gives us a chance to build savings.

How Does SE Work?

No one is excluded who wants to participate.

Supported employment is integrated with treatment.

The focus is community jobs anyone can apply for that pay at least minimum wage, including part-time and full-time jobs.

Employment specialists help consumers 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.

There are no requirements for completing extensive pre-employment assessment and training, or intermediate work experiences.

Individualized supports to maintain employment continue as long as consumers want the assistance.

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

How Can Consumers Benefit from Supported Employment?

Part-time work is supported.

Supported Employment helps match employees with employers.

Employment services continue after a suitable job is found.

Employment specialists collaborate closely with the other members of the treatment team.

If a consumer is unable to work even with the help of the Supported Employment program, other services are still available.
Evidence-Based Mental Health Practices for Adults

Integrated Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders

Assertive Community Treatment

Illness Management and Recovery

Supported Employment

Family Psychoeducation

Supported Employment

Helping consumers who want to work get meaningful, competitive jobs.

Evidence-Based Treatment Works!

For additional information, please see our Web site at:

www.samhsa.gov

This document is part of an evidence-based practice Implementation Resource Kit developed through a contract (no. 280-00-8049) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) and a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and support from the West Family Foundation. No one may reproduce, reprint, or distribute this publication for a fee without specific authorization from SAMHSA.