

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

EVIDENCE BASED PRINCIPLES

- **ELIGIBILITY IS BASED ON CONSUMER CHOICE.**
No one is excluded because of prior work history, hospitalization history, substance use, symptoms, or other characteristics. No one is excluded who wants to participate.
- **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT IS CLOSELY INTEGRATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT.**
Employment specialists meet frequently with the mental health treatment team to coordinate plans.
- **COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT IS THE GOAL.**
The focus is community jobs anyone can apply for that pay at least minimum wage, including part-time and full-time jobs.
- **JOB SEARCH STARTS SOON AFTER A CONSUMER EXPRESSES AN INTEREST IN WORKING.**
There are no requirements for completing extensive pre-employment assessment and training, or intermediate work experiences (like pre-vocational work units, transitional employment, or sheltered workshops).
- **FOLLOW-ALONG SUPPORTS ARE CONTINUOUS.**
Individualized supports to maintain employment continue as long as the consumer wants assistance.
- **CONSUMER PREFERENCES ARE IMPORTANT.**
Choices and decisions about work and support are individualized based on the person's preferences, strengths, and experiences.
- **BENEFITS COUNSELING IS PART OF THE EMPLOYMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.**
Personalized benefits planning and guidance help consumers to make informed decisions about job starts and changes.