

Supported Employment: Core Principles

- **Eligibility is based on consumer choice.** *No one is excluded who wants to participate.*
- **Supported Employment is integrated with treatment.** *Employment specialists coordinate plans with the treatment team: case manager, therapist, psychiatrist, etc.*
- **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 interest in working.** *There are no requirements for completing extensive pre-employment assessment and training, or intermediate work experiences (like prevocational work units, transitional employment, or sheltered workshops).*
- **Consumer preferences are important.** *Choices and decisions about work and support are individualized based on the person's preferences, strengths, and experiences.*
- **Follow-up supports are continuous.** *Individualized supports to maintain employment continue as long as consumers want the assistance.*
- **Personalized benefits counseling is provided.** *Benefits planning and guidance help consumers make informed decisions about job starts and changes.*

