

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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Employment Services (ES) is a community-based provider of Van Buren Community Mental Health that provides vocational services to individuals with disabilities. The goal is to enable participants to find and maintain competitive work in integrated settings within the community. The ES Program supports participants through various units.

CAREER CONNECTIONS:

Career Connections serves individuals who want to be placed and receive support in the open job market. The program provides an Employment Consultant who establishes a trusting relationship with each participant and works closely with their case manager, family/natural supports, and other providers of the treatment team to support the participant with the goal of getting and keeping a job.

Vocational Profile: A comprehensive process that systematically utilizes an intake interview, assessments and/or real and simulated work situations, as appropriate, to assist the participant in the identification of goals leading towards job development including:

- Conversations with the client, family, and past employers.
- Identification of cultural barriers to employment.
- Consultations with the Treatment Team.
- Identification of work-related issues including lack of occupational skills, grooming skills, language skills, and stamina.
- Assistance with vocational objectives and research of labor market.

The Employment Consultant creates an approach that will help the participant obtain a job as quickly as possible. Including:

- Individualized job placement assistance.
- Assisting participants in making informed decisions regarding their vocational objective and current labor market employment opportunities.
- Training for job seeking, which includes completing job applications and learning interview skills.

- Visiting employers, presenting the participant's skills and abilities to the employer, arranging interviews, and attaining competitive employment.

Job Retention Services:

Follow-along services to assist participants in maintaining employment through off-site or on-site support including:

- On-site job coaching and job shadowing
- Off-site employment counseling
- Employee/employer support

ES frequently partners with MRS (Michigan Rehabilitation Services) to assist individuals in their pursuit for community-based employment. MRS works with eligible individuals and employers to achieve quality employment outcomes, the possibility of paid work experiences, and independence for individuals with disabilities.

For Employers:

Getting started is simple! Just let us know the details of the position you are looking to fill and we will discuss the job responsibilities and expectations to find a candidate for your company as well as helping:

- With your workforce needs and find the best candidate to fit your business.
- By providing our employment services and support at no cost to the employer.
- Through job matching by taking the time to understand your workplace needs and introduce candidates with the personal attributes and skills that are required for success.
- Through offering quality candidates who want to work and satisfied workers perform best when they enjoy their positions.
- We provide ongoing support to the employer and your new hire as long as desired and needed.

Our Commitment to Employers:

Our dedication to enhancing people's lives does not end with our job candidates. As an employment partner, you will receive the following benefits to ensure our relationship is long lasting:

- Clear communication to determine the ~~correct~~ best candidate and to help ensure candidate retention.
- Trial workdays on site to ensure candidates are appropriate.
- Job site training assistance courtesy of our Employment Specialists.

- Assistance with adjusting job responsibilities or expectations.
- Continuing off-site support and coaching for the candidate.
- Increased diversity in the workplace.
- Qualification for the work opportunities tax credit.

PARTNERSHIP PERKS:

With other demands of managing your business, the hiring process can be a hassle. We will collaborate with you to lighten the workload associated with recruitment, hiring, and training.

You can enjoy all the benefits of a brand-new employee without going through the tedious process of screening applicants, interviewing candidates, and focusing on getting your new hire fully trained.

Career Connections makes the difference:

Recruitment:

- No more endless searching! We provide our employment partners with qualified job candidates.

Job Training:

- Our job coaches work in tandem with your staff to bring new hires up to speed with your company values and expectations.

Job Retention:

- Even after training is complete, our job coaches are available for additional support and will check in regularly to ensure the satisfaction of both employer and employee.

SAVING TIMBERS:

The Saving Timbers (ST) is a skill building program located in downtown Bangor that provides services in a store front and studio setting. The goal of this program is to help individuals move towards greater self-sufficiency, choice, and opportunities for fully integrated competitive employment or volunteering in their community.

Program participants are active partners in determining the activities in which they desire to participate. Services and activities are organized around stated goals, identified preferences, and the needs of the individual served.

The ST program provides individuals with the space and instruction to work on their individualized works of art and varying art supplies available for use if needed. Materials supplied may depend upon donations and can include a variety of media including fabric, paints, collage, print, yarn, wood, etc.

The program provides individuals with an outlet to achieve creative expression to enrich the community with the diversity of art through services that provide:

- A positive and creative environment that focuses on individual's abilities through instruction and scheduled studio time to create saleable art.
- The opportunity to develop work skills, taking steps toward community employment while learning and working with peers in a community setting.
- The prospect to earn an income for the items sold on consignment in our store.
- The chance to develop customer service skills and to market art through a variety of venues.