



Integrating Workforce Development with Homeless Services

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February 2024

Workforce Development Frame

- Intake/person centered assessments
- Job search assistance
- Work readiness training
- Referral/resource connection, public benefits connection (resources navigation)
- Occupational training
- Job placement
- Job opportunities
- Retention services and case management

Workforce Development and the System

- Along with lack of affordable housing, insufficient income and unemployment are key causes of homelessness.
- People experiencing homelessness want to work and view it as a top priority. Employment helps meet basic needs, has positive effects on mental health, and provides structure and purpose to our lives.
- Many people experiencing homelessness already work but don't earn enough to escape homelessness, so access to career pathways, occupation-specific training, and jobs with higher wages and better benefits are critical.
- By targeting employment opportunities and providing job training and other resources in a coordinated way, other communities have strengthened pathways to employment and housing stability in their homeless system.

Making the Case for Work as a Priority

- Increasing income could lower costs through lost tax revenue, unpaid public bills, and public benefit use and free resources to serve people with the most barriers and disadvantaged by the system.
- Connecting individuals to jobs will incentivize landlords to rent, improving HUD funding usage.
- In the long term, preventing and ending homelessness is contingent on individuals and families securing sufficient and consistent earnings needed to keep a stable roof over their heads.
- A renewed focus on workforce development can bring other corporations and employers time and resources to support the system.
- Workforce should be an added priority to the existing priorities in our system. We are not prioritizing it over any other need. Access to housing and employment are both important.

Ask to the Leadership Council

- Prioritize workforce development (WFD) as a top priority for 2024
- Build a definition of WFD and Supportive Employment as an intervention type
- Amend the '24-'25 Roadmap to include a priority for Systems Improvement Committee to create a WFD Workgroup (or ad hoc committee) to focus on the creation of WFD Written Standards
- Approval of written standards for Workforce Development & Supportive Employment
- Creation of data elements in HMIS (including creation of WFD project in HMIS plus any additional data elements e.g. date of hire, job title, salary, etc.)
- Provide advocacy with the COA and County to include WFD for people experiencing homelessness as priority

Questions?