Supported Employment

What’s It All About?

Thresholds assists and inspires people with severe mental illnesses to reclaim their lives by providing the supports, skills, and the respectful encouragement that they need to achieve hopeful and successful futures. We strive to be the provider of choice, employer of choice, and a world leader in the development and evaluation of rehabilitation and recovery services.

In 2009, Thresholds’ Supported Employment Program was awarded the American Psychiatric Association’s Gold Achievement Award and the SAMHSA Science and Service Award for excellence in program service and research.

Work Can Have Many Benefits

- For most of us, work is part of our identity. When we feel good about having a job, we often see ourselves in a more positive way.
- Work provides structure and routine.
- Income gives you more choices about what to buy, where to live, and gives you a chance to build savings.
- Researchers have studied many different types of programs that help consumers find and keep employment. They consistently find that supported employment assists more consumers with getting and keeping their jobs than any other approach.
- Competitive employment is the goal. Your Employment Specialist will help you find a job paying at least minimum wage where you are a surrounded by a variety of co-workers.

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Thresholds
4101 N. Ravenswood Ave.
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(773) 572-5500
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Eligibility Is Based On Member Choice
- No one who wants to participate is excluded.
- This program does not force you to work. If you want to work, you will be given the supports and services to help you make your career goals a possibility.

Supported Employment Is Integrated With Treatment
- Employment Specialists coordinate plans with your treatment team: your case manager, therapist, psychiatrist, etc.

Employment Specialists At Thresholds Help You Obtain Benefits Information
- Many members worry about starting work and how their benefits, such as Social Security or Medicaid, may be affected. Employment Specialists assist you in obtaining accurate information.
- There are programs that can help you continue to receive benefits, or partial benefits, even when you are earning an income from work.

Job Search Starts Soon After You Express Interest In Working
- There are no requirements for completing extensive pre-employment assessment and training.
- There are no requirements for intermediate work experiences like groups, time-limited employment, or sheltered workshops. If you’re unsure about what specific career you want, your Employment Specialist can help you with questions and ideas about employment.

Your Preferences Are Important
- Choices and decisions about work and support are individualized based on your preferences, strengths, and experiences.
- You may know of some careers that interest you. Employment Specialists will listen to your preferences. The type of job that you will get through supported employment depends on your choices.
- Working part-time is also your choice. Employment Specialists are trained to understand that you will be happier with a career that fits your needs rather than a job that you have to fit into.

Follow-along Supports Are Not Time-Limited
- Individualized supports to maintain employment continue as long as you want the assistance.
- Employment Specialists are available to help you plan your career, manage surprises that may come up at work, and develop ways to help you succeed after you’ve obtained a job.
- Working is sometimes stressful. When you’re hired, an Employment Specialist will continue to provide supports and services.
- It’s not uncommon for people to change jobs a few times before finding a job they want to keep. Your Employment Specialist can talk with you about ending an unsatisfying job and looking for a better match.

“Nothing will work unless you do.”
— Maya Angelou