



CONTACT:

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

373 Clermont Terrace

Union, NJ 07083

Phone: 908-686-2956

Fax: 908-248-9222

How Does It Work?

Individual Preferences. Choices about work are based on a person's preferences, strengths, and experiences.

Competitive Jobs. Employment specialists help people find jobs in the open labor market, at current market wages.

Benefits Counseling. Employment specialists help people understand how benefits, for example Social Security and Medicaid, are affected by working. Most people are able to work and receive some benefits.

Timely Support. Employment specialists help people look for jobs soon after they enter the program.

Continuous Supports. Once a job is found, employment specialists provide ongoing support as needed.

www.bridgewaybhs.org



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Serving

- Job Seekers
- Employers
- Community Stakeholders



Bridgeway emphasizes career development as a crucial ingredient in the rehabilitation of people who have mental health conditions. Bridgeway views education as a gateway to better employment opportunities; community integration, including the development of a valued community role; and an overall improved quality of life. Work is important, not only as a means of financial support, but as a self-esteem builder, and serves as a step towards integration into community and becoming a contributing member of society.

Supported Employment Services follows a *Choose, Get, Keep, and Leave* model of service provision.

Services include:

- Career development
- On and off-site job/academic coaching
- Career exploration
- Skill development
- Support services
- Individual counseling

Choosing a Career Path:

The choosing part of career services helps people in deciding what career they would like to pursue. The interventions may include vocational exploration; career education; job shadowing and/or informational interviews; labor market values surveys and interest inventories; acquiring social security entitlements; exploring educational requirements, wages, benefits, and perceived barriers to employment, for example transportation issues. Individuals meet with their assigned Career Specialists to explore possible career opportunities.

Getting the Career of Your Choice:

Once an individual has chosen a career path, the CS Team will assist the individual with evaluating and obtaining the position of his or her choice. This is done through interview practice; resume building; the application process; learning job searching techniques; networking; transportation training, and job shadowing to better understand specific job responsibilities and employment environments. The Career Specialist is available to provide assistance with all aspects of this phase. The final decision about employment is between the person served and the prospective employer.

Keeping Your Job:

The CS Team will assist individuals in doing whatever is necessary to keep their jobs. This is done through on and off-site job coaching, one-on-one meetings, and linkage to support groups. On-site job coaching is available based on each individual's decision regarding whether or not they choose to disclose their disability to their employer.

Leaving Your Job:

The CS Team will assist the employee with navigating the process of transitioning his or her career path (i.e. leaving a position, getting promoted, or changing careers.) It is the responsibility of the person served to inform his or her Career Specialist of any changes in job status and maintain monthly contact.

Who is Eligible?:

1. Residents of Union County, over 18 years of age with a documented diagnosis of mental illness
2. Individuals with a stated goal of paid competitive employment.
3. Individuals who are anticipating beginning a new job within approximately 3 to 6 months.

