

# HomeWORK

## *Sustaining Changes in Increasing Employment for Supportive Housing Tenants*

1. Meet n Greets held at local CT OneStops have lead to a greater understanding for case managers on how the One Stop system operates and how to make successful tenant referrals.
2. Through HomeWORK, the Hartford and New Haven CTWorks offices have created quiet work stations for supportive housing case managers and tenants. In these work stations, tenants have access to adaptive equipment such as adjustable work stations, ergonomic chairs and keyboards, large screen monitors, foot rests, mini and large print keyboards, zoom text software and Mavis Beacon software.
3. 68.4% of SH agencies now incorporate employment into their agency vision and/or mission statement.
4. 100% of SH agencies include employment/educational goals in tenant service plans.
5. 78.9% of SH agencies include employment/educational related tasks in their case managers job descriptions.
6. 47.4% of SH agencies are collaborating with local employers to help assist their tenants in securing employment in the communities where they live.
7. Case Managers are now engaging regularly with their tenants around work; connecting tenants with benefits counselors, assisting tenants in connecting with employment specialist/facilitators and working toward positive outcomes with tenants goals around work.
8. Case Managers and Employment Specialist have developed relationships that are assisting tenants in their work and educational efforts; making referrals to agencies such as; CT OneStops, BRS, DOL programs, temporary staffing agencies, professional employment services and educational programs/services.
9. Agencies are working to create specific positions dedicated to employment with 52.6% of SH agencies setting aside funding specifically dedicated to employment programs. This is an increase in employment specific funding of 16.2% since the inception of HomeWORK.
10. 42.1% of SH agencies have an Employment Specialist on staff.
  - At the inception of the HomeWORK project there were no Employment Specialists in Supportive Housing Agencies in Bridgeport. As result of HomeWORK and the emphasis placed on employment and education, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County now employs an Employment Specialist.
11. There has been an increase in the number of “roundtables” dedicated to employment.
12. 89.5% of Supportive Housing Agencies now collect and report on employment related outcomes.
13. 78.9 % of SH agencies provide job clubs, employment workshops and job skills groups for supportive housing tenants.

14. Case Managers in Supportive Housing are now talking to each other, sharing cases and ideas through the implementation of monthly Case Conferences in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport.
15. New grant opportunities specific to employment and education are being researched and pursued by Supportive Housing Programs.
16. Shelters have become interested in employment, education and training and see it as a definite prevention and preparation model for their clientele. Shelters in Hartford have requested the same services of HomeWORK that have been offered to Supportive Housing Agencies, such as the training in “Creating a Work Ready Environment”.
17. Supportive Housing Agencies recognize the impact that peer mentoring plays in motivating tenants towards work. This has lead Case Managers to enlist peers to speak to tenants about such programs as The Property Management Career Path, to use job clubs in retaining employment and education and to enhance the focus on wellness when talking about employment and educational opportunities.
  - The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Advocacy Unlimited and Recovery United have agreed to allow all of their training and advocacy resource material to be available and maintained on the Connect-Ability Website.
  - At the end of the HomeWORK initiative NAMI has agreed to support and oversee the Speakers Bureau and will additionally provide trainings on speaking to Legislators.