Employment as a Key Strategy to End Homelessness
Values in Homeless Services & Public Workforce Systems

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Heartland Alliance

Equity. Opportunity. For ALL.

We believe society is better for everyone when all of us can participate, prosper, and reach our full potential.

Direct service efforts in 100 communities nationwide and 12 countries internationally, research & evaluation, policy & advocacy, and systems change.
Heartland Alliance’s
National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity

Every person deserves the right to a quality job and the ability to meet their basic needs.
National Center on Employment & Homelessness (NCEH)

Ensuring that every person experiencing homelessness who wants to work achieves employment and the income needed for long-term housing stability.
Upcoming trainings:

May 5: The evidence base for employment

May 12: Values and your system

May 19: Evidence-based employment models

May 26: Service delivery strategies
A brief review of the evidence...
on homelessness & employment
A brief review of the evidence... on homelessness & employment

- People experiencing homelessness want to work
- Employment is a key factor in preventing and exiting homelessness
- Employment supports health, wellbeing, and quality of life
- Employment supports recovery and mental health
- Employment improves relationships and builds self-worth
- Employment services for people experiencing homelessness are cost-effective.
Our Beliefs:

- **Everyone** who wants to work should have access to a job
- **Everyone** who wants a job can work with the right supports
What are the values of the homeless services field?
Our Values: Racial Equity

- Covid-19 and racial equity
- Systems tend to not be racially equitable
- Practicing zero exclusion
POLL!
How familiar are you with “Housing First?”
Our Values: Housing First

- Housing First assumes certain things
- Harm reduction
Our Values:
“Meeting People Where They Are”

- Defining and operationalizing this in the context of employment
Please take a quick break and re-join us in 5 minutes!
Our Values: **Consumer Choice**

- If someone tells you they want to work, start helping them make it happen
- Career exploration and individualized job development to match jobseeker preferences
Our Values: Trauma-Informed Care

- Covid-19 and worker trauma
- How trauma can show up in the workplace
Breakout!

Choose one of the values we covered today: How could you operationalize this value in your work related to employment?
Questions?
Please complete the evaluation!
Check out our (free!) toolkits

- WIOA Planning & Implementation Toolkit
- Opportunity Youth Employment Toolkit
- Employer Engagement Toolkit
- Working To End Homelessness Toolkit
- Transitional Jobs Programs Toolkit
- TANF and Transitional Jobs Toolkit

heartlandalliance.org/nationalinitiatives
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