Employment as a Key Strategy to End Homelessness
The Evidence Base on Homelessness & Employment

Heidi Schultheis and Chris Warland, Heartland Alliance
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.
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
Tell us about yourselves!

In the chat box, tell us:
- Your name
- Your role
- Your biggest employment-related challenge with your clients
Poll!

Your work + employment = ?
The COVID-19 pandemic is revealing and exacerbating inequities in housing and employment.

It is even more critical now that we:

- Focus on racial equity
- Respond to worker trauma
- Prioritize job quality
Evidence of the value of employment for people experiencing homelessness
People experiencing homelessness want to, can, and do work.
Employment is an important factor in preventing and ending homelessness.

Increased income is a strong predictor of a person exiting homelessness.

Earned income and current or recent employment are associated with shorter duration of homelessness.
Employment is a Social Determinant of Health (SDOH).

**Economic Stability**
- Poverty
- Employment
- Food Security
- Housing Stability

*SOURCE: Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP)*
Employment can support recovery and mental health.

Employment supports recovery from mental illness and addiction.

Unemployment is worse for mental health than stress caused by employment.
Employment improves health, family functioning, wellbeing, builds self worth and instills purpose.
Employment services offered within supportive housing are cost-effective and benefit tenants, funders, and society through increased employment, earned income, and lower dependence on benefits.
Please take a quick break and re-join us in 5 minutes!
Breakout!

How would you explain the value of prioritizing employment for people experiencing homelessness to a skeptical colleague?
Questions?
Please complete the evaluation!
Check out our (free!) toolkits

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

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