

## WHAT'S NEW IN BRINGING VALUE BY IMPROVING OUTCOMES?

### Linking Supportive Housing and Employment Services



Achieving and sustaining recovery from mental health and substance use disorders is greatly enhanced when the individual has safe, stable housing *and* is employed, or has some meaningful activity. DMHAS' **Supportive Housing Program** provides permanent housing and on-site supports for people with mental illness and substance use disorders. The Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services' (DSS/BRS) **Connect-Ability** program is an employment initiative for people with disabilities. **Bringing Connect-Ability and Supportive Housing together** will help tenants pursue their employment goals, move toward self-sufficiency, and re-engage with their communities.

A new collaborative project was created to increase employment outcomes for Supportive Housing tenants. Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funds, awarded by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, help to remove barriers to employment through linkages between persons with mental health and substance use disorders, state agencies, care providers and employers.

#### This project will:

- ✘ **Enhance system change** efforts already underway in Connecticut.
- ✘ **Build a strong, integrated career development infrastructure** that leverages employment services and supports of multiple agencies.
- ✘ Change in how **key agencies collaborate** to improve employment outcomes for traditionally underserved populations.



#### HOW?

DMHAS, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Inc. and DSS/BRS will **collaborate** over a three-year period **to improve employment outcomes** in three areas:

- ✘ **Culture Change** - State agency staff will develop culturally-responsive protocols for engaging residents of Supportive Housing through effective employment strategies.
- ✘ **Peer Engagement** – Residents of Supportive Housing will conduct training for partner agencies and Supportive Housing facilities to raise awareness of local resources and ensure access.
- ✘ **Benefits Coordination** – Staff will work with BRS to better inform Supportive Housing residents of how earnings impact benefits and promote informed choice.



### PROJECT GOALS

- ✘ **200** residents of Supportive Housing will **enter employment**
- ✘ **50%** of those will **retain work** for 90 days
- ✘ **10%** will **advance to higher levels** of employment
- ✘ Earnings will allow **15 residents to go off Social Security cash benefits**
- ✘ **25%** of those entering education will successfully complete their coursework
- ✘ **10** Supportive Housing providers will **join Employment Networks** and **use the Ticket to Work Program** to generate resources