



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
2 Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-657-2252

Supported Employment

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Call the Georgia
Crisis and Access
Line (GCAL) at
(800) 715-4225
for both routine and
crisis services 24/7.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?

Contact the Office of
Constituent Services
at [dbhddconstituent-
services@
dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:dbhddconstituent-services@dbhdd.ga.gov) or
(404) 657-5964

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the DBHDD
website at
<http://dbhdd.ga.gov>
for more information
about our agency,
including rules and
regulations, policies
and careers.

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) believes that employment plays a vital role in helping people with behavioral health challenges and developmental disabilities achieve recovery and independence. Working and earning income allows people to achieve greater independence while pursuing more fulfilling lives. Employment provides opportunities for increased community interaction, which generally leads to increased health and happiness.

Through our network of community providers, DBHDD funds supported employment programs across Georgia that helps individuals obtain competitive work. This means a permanent job for which anyone can apply, located in a community setting, integrating employees with and without disabilities, and paying at least minimum wage. Integrated employment allows for regular interaction with co-workers without disabilities, customers and the general public. Individuals are matched to jobs consistent with their interests and abilities.

Supported employment specialists work with individuals to provide an array of supports specific to their needs and goals. These supports may include

- * **Pre-placement**, which identifies an individual's employment strengths and interests;

- * **Job development**, including working with potential employers to develop competitive opportunities which meet the employer's needs;

- * **Job placement**, which helps individuals apply for and negotiate positions that meet the needs of the individuals and their employers; the employment specialist ensures that the position supports the individual's immediate and long-term career goals, and that the employer provides reasonable accommodations if necessary;

- * **Job coaching** to help the individual develop the skills needed to perform his or her job to the employer's satisfaction;

- * **Follow-along supports**, which provide continued guidance, training and supportive counseling to help the individual maintain continuous employment;

- * **Clinical coordination** between the individual's supported employment services and other elements of his or her service plan; and

- * **Career development** to support the individual's long-term career goals

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and advancement opportunities.

DBHDD also works with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to provide additional opportunities to use supported employment services for individuals with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities.

Mental Health

Supported employment is available to individuals who desire competitive employment and who, due to the impact and severity of their mental illness, are unemployed or underemployed. In fiscal year 2014, DBHDD provided more than \$5.3 million to support 1,090 individuals with mental health challenges through employment programs. As of Feb. 1, 2015, the number of individuals receiving supported employment services has increased to 1,270. The statewide supported employment network includes 21 providers throughout Georgia. The department has made improvements to sup-

ported employment programs by using better monitoring processes and high-quality training and technical assistance.

Developmental Disabilities

DBHDD believes that all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities should have the opportunity to seek competitive employment. In fiscal year 2014, the department allocated more than \$9.2 million to 195 providers, supporting 2,483 individuals through employment services. Employment helps individuals establish connections that allow them to contribute to their communities. Some of the positive impacts of employment include increasing self-worth, building relationships, and gaining financial independence. Additionally, the employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities adds to the diversity of the workforce and community.

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) serves individuals with mental health challenges, addictive diseases, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our mission is to provide easy access to high-quality care for the people we serve. We offer a wide range of services to fulfill our mission and support our goal of helping people achieve recovery and independence.