

Supported Employment FAQ's

What is Supported Employment?

Supported employment facilitates competitive work in integrated work settings for individuals with disabilities for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred, and because of the nature and severity of their disability, need ongoing support services in order to perform their job. Supported employment encourages people to work within their communities and encourages work, social interaction, and integration.

What services are made available through supported employment?

Supported employment provides assistance such as job coaches, transportation, assistive technology, specialized job training, and individually tailored supervision.

What should the outcome of supported employment be?

Supported employment services should achieve the following outcomes: opportunity to earn equitable wages and other employment-related benefits, development of new skills, increased community participation, enhanced self-esteem, increased consumer empowerment, and quality of life.

How should someone in supported employment be paid?

Work performed must be compensated with the same benefits and wages as other workers in similar jobs receive. This includes sick leave, vacation time, health benefits, bonuses, training opportunities, and other benefits. Employees must work for at least 18 hours per week.

How should a supported employee be treated in the worksite?

Integration is one of the essential features of supported employment. Individuals with disabilities should have the same opportunities to participate in all activities in which other employees participate and to work alongside other employees who do not have disabilities.

How is supported employment different from other employment programs?

A key characteristic which distinguishes supported employment from other employment programs is the provision of ongoing support for individuals with severe disabilities to maintain employment.