

# SUPPORT JOB SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

HF4131/SF4021  
(Sencer-Mura/Mohamed)



- \$2,500,000 from the workforce development fund added to the base for Individual Placement Supports (IPS) employment services.
- About 1,000 people in Minnesota receive IPS services every year. 1/3 are served using one-time funding from last year's one-time allocation.
- Additional funds are needed to maintain current service capacity and address growing needs.
- Significant need to expand services to BIPOC clients with mental illness who have less access to services. IPS has been shown to be more effective than usual vocational services for people of color, with significantly better outcomes.

## IPS Background

- Evidence-based, person-centered practice focused on integrated, competitive employment.
- Employment is a means to support recovery from mental illness and people are able to pursue employment without waiting to “get better.”
- Involves a full range of employment services from job seeking to job retention and career laddering. Participants rapidly engage with potential employers.
- Each vocational provider partners with a mental health program to ensure holistic employment services for each person.
- In the United States, 60% of people with mental illness want to work, but less than 2% have access to IPS. **The primary barrier is lack of adequate funding.**
- There are 22 projects in Minnesota serving 44 Minnesota counties – only about half the counties have access to these services at all.
- Average placement rate in Minnesota is 61% - higher than the national average of 55% for IPS projects. Other vocational approaches have a 25% placement rate.
- People receiving IPS services also get jobs more quickly, work more hours, and earn higher wages than people with mental illness served with other approaches. They also stay at their jobs four times longer during follow-up and many become steady workers, retaining employment for 10+ years.
- Mental illness is the fastest growing reason that people become Social Security Disability beneficiaries. By spending on employment services for this population, Social Security expenditures are reduced.

For more information on HF4131/SF4021, contact Shep Harris:  
612-219-8531 | [sharris@fredlaw.com](mailto:sharris@fredlaw.com)