

## What is IPS?

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is a model of supported employment for people with serious mental illness (e.g., depression, schizophrenia spectrum disorder, bipolar, ). IPS supported employment helps people living with behavioral health conditions work at regular jobs of their choosing. Although variations of supported employment exist, IPS refers to the evidence-based practice of supported employment, with the goal being the attainment and maintenance of competitive, preference-based job within the community.

### IPS STATS

- Clients served by BGC IPS: 48
- BGC clients employed: 21
- Jobs started by BGC clients in April : 2
- US States in the IPS Learning Community: 26
- Countries/regions outside the US in the IPS Learning Community: 7

## Client Champion Quote:

**How has IPS helped you in your journey to employment?** *“IPS has helped me in so many areas including helping me overcome my barriers to employment, advocating for me, and helping me develop skills needed for employment.”*

**What would you say to someone who consider participate in IPS?** *“You get what you put in. Show up, continuously work hard and most importantly don’t give up! The rewards are endless.”*

## Clinician Champion

April’s Clinician Champion Kassi Jediola has been working for BGC for almost 10 years. Kassi was nominated by the IPS team for her amazing collaboration between her client’s on the Addictions Team and IPS. Kassi originally started with the ECASP team working in crisis and coordinating client services. After a few years on ECASP, she jumped on over to the Mental Health Team having a caseload of adult clients. Kassi also co-facilitated Men’s Trauma Group and Out and About Group (LGBTQ+ support group). After trying her hand at remote therapy during 2020, she emerged back into the office, masked and wiping surfaces, reflecting on the obtaining her CADC (Certified

Alcohol and Drug Counselor). Kassi has been on the Addictions Team since April 2021 and describes the last two years have allowed her to grow and been amazing!

Clinician Champion, Kassi Jediola, talks about how IPS has benefited her client’s on the addictions team on pg 2.

“I am grateful in being nominated as IPS clinician champion of the month. I have been on the Addictions Team for over two years now and have seen such a demand for help with either obtaining a GED or finding the right employment for my client to get their needs met. Day in and day out the Addictions Team is striving to motivate our clients to not lose hope after multiple attempts of employment, especially those with criminal backgrounds like felonies from years ago that can hinder hope and self-esteem. Addictions Team helps client persevere and learn how to cope with the feeling opposite of instant gratification. So many basic needs have to come first and IPS (Desiree & Arzy) has done wonders working with addictions team in helping them financially, so the clients are able to worry less about paying the rent or having food for the month. When you are able to give a client the ability to tend to their basic needs and a bit of autonomy, then it frees up more time for them to better themselves in learning coping strategies to get through a craving or how to cope with overwhelming emotions.”

-Kassi Jediola IPS  
Clinician  
Champion of  
the Month



## Why Focus on Employment?

Two-thirds of people with serious mental illness want to work but only 15% are employed. They see work as an essential part of recovery. Being productive is a basic human need. Working can both be a way out of poverty and prevent entry into the disability system. Competitive employment has a positive impact on self-esteem, life satisfaction, and reducing symptoms (Luciano, Bond, & Drake, 2014).

### 8 Key Principles of IPS

Zero Exclusion  
Worker Preferences  
Integrated Services  
Competitive Employment  
Rapid Job Search  
Benefit Planning  
Systematic Job Development  
Time-Unlimited Supports

### Benefits of Employment:

- Increased Financial Security
- Increased Community Connection
- Meaningful Activity
- Improved self-esteem
- Reduced substance use
- Reduced hospitalizations

### IPS Principle of the Month

#### Rapid Job Search

IPS programs use a rapid job search approach to help job seekers obtain jobs rather than assessments, training, & counseling. The first face to face contact with the employer occurs within 30 days.

Interested in learning more about the IPS Supported Employment Program?

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