

Supported Work



Adult probationers often find themselves behind bars that are invisible but no less confining than those in the prisons they have left behind. Lack of employment opportunities, affordable housing, substance abuse treatment, relapse prevention services, medical care and basic life necessities are among the barriers to successful reintegration. Not surprisingly, when material and emotional needs go unattended, recidivism rates rise.

What is "Supported Work"?

YAP provides supported work opportunities for our adult population. For those who have few marketable skills or are unable to work independently, YAP offers the supported work program. The program provides opportunities to build skills and experience in the workplace with the support and supervision of Advocate staff.

Supported work also offers opportunity for parolees to meet positive role models and can remove adults from the underground illegal economy. Contracts are developed with appropriate employers and YAP subsidizes the parolee's wages for an initial training period. Wages are often used to pay for restitution mandates; for the parolee to purchase supplies and clothes for job interviews or to purchase equipment linked to a parolee's personal interests. Advocates work with the parolee and employer to help the adult succeed. Employers are encouraged to hire the parolee after the initial training period.

How it Works

Supported Work opportunities are developed to facilitate an adult successful entry into the workplace. The goal is to develop lasting skills that will help ensure long-term, successful employment. To that end, advocates provide support and guidance beginning with the job search and continuing after the adult is on the job. Adults are encouraged to identify their interests and capabilities and to explore various employment options. Staff will help them access and utilize resources such as One-Stop services. Advocates provide job coaching, mentoring and other individualized services to promote job success. Advocates also facilitate visits to potential employment sites and arrange job shadowing opportunities. Positive community members such as business owners may be linked with these adults to assist with career planning and other educational/vocational issues. These individuals may also participate on the adult's Support Team.

Engaging Local Businesses as Work Sites

Program staff reach out to the local non-profit and business sector to develop opportunities. Agency experience has been that significant numbers of employers are willing to hire clients after the initial Supported Work contract has ended. YAP handles payroll processing, withholding taxes and other administrative functions for Supported Work. We work to place clients in unsubsidized employment. Supportive services (assistance with job applications, interview techniques, work place protocol, relationships with co-workers, etc.) are provided for all clients.

