

Individual Placement and Support (IPS)



Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an internationally recognized model of supported employment for people with serious mental illness. The focus is on helping people living with behavioral health conditions to work at regular jobs of their choosing. Mainstream education and technical training are also included as ways to advance career paths.

The model emphasizes a collaborative approach between the mental health system and Vocational Rehabilitation system. VR Counselors and employment specialists are integrated with the individual's mental health treatment team to promote success with the individual's employment goals.

IPS is recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as an evidenced-based practice and began in Florida as a partnership between Broward Behavioral Health Coalition and VR Area seven in 2016. With assistance from the IPS Employment Center, three sites began implementing IPS. Presently, there are now 6 sites in that area.

VR and Department of Children and Families Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) took an interest in expanding the IPS model at the state level. In 2021, Florida applied for and was selected to participate in an initiative under the U.S. Department of Labor called ASPIRE (Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment). The purpose of the initiative is to assist states in aligning their policies and practices in support of competitive integrated employment for people with mental health conditions. The key state agencies in the initiative are SAMH, VR, Medicaid, and Career Source.

Pictured: Veronica Ebuon



Under the ASPIRE initiative, we are receiving training and technical support from the IPS Employment Center to expand IPS to additional areas of Florida.

Through an application process, we selected two sites as “early adopters” for initial IPS expansion (Clay Behavioral Health Center and Peace River Center).

IPS is currently implemented in at least 25 U.S. states and 6 countries.

For more information, contact Veronica.Ebuen@vr.fldoe.org or visit www.ipsworks.org



Pictured Left to Right:

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Celebrating Project SEARCH

