

# **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**Prepared by the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee  
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This flyer describes employment services for people with mental health disabilities in Massachusetts. These are provided by One-Stop Career Centers.

## **One-Stop Career Centers**

One-Stop Career Centers are public centers, operated by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, that provide a range of assistance to job seekers in one place.

The centers offer services including:

- tutoring, studying, skills training, and instruction leading to secondary school completion;
- alternative secondary school offerings;
- summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning;
- paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing;
- occupational skills training and training referrals;
- supportive services;
- adult mentoring for a duration of at least twelve months that may occur both during and after program participation;
- career counseling as well as other forms of counseling and referrals to counseling;
- vocational evaluation and assessment; and
- employment search.

## **Finding a Center**

You can visit a center in person or read about a center on-line. There are 34 centers in Massachusetts. A list is available at <http://www.mass.gov/lwd/employment-services/dcs/find-a-career-center-near-you.html>.

## **Information for people with disabilities**

While some individuals with disabilities are able to access center services without any special assistance, some may bring someone with them to help access services. Additionally, individuals can contact their local center before visiting to learn if there are any special services available for people with disabilities. Some centers do have dedicated services.

The centers also collaborate with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission funded employment service providers so that is another source of support for people with disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

### **Additional resources for job seekers**

Mass. Department of Mental Health, Young Adult Resource Guide: 2012, <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dmh/publications/young-adult-resource-guide.pdf> (see employment section)

U. Mass. Medical School, Transitions RTC publications on Employment:

- <http://umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC/publication/>

Institute for Community Inclusion publications:

- One-Stop Centers: A Guide for Job Seekers with Disabilities (2000), [http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article\\_id=50&type=topic&id=9](http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=50&type=topic&id=9)
- Four Strategies to Find a Good Job: Advice from Job Seekers with Disabilities (2003), [http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article\\_id=57&type=topic&id=3](http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=57&type=topic&id=3)
- More Than Just a Job: Person-Centered Career Planning (2003), [http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article\\_id=16&type=topic&id=3](http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=16&type=topic&id=3)
- Starting with Me: A Guide to Person-Centered Planning for Job Seekers (2002), [http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article\\_id=54&type=topic&id=3](http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=54&type=topic&id=3)

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Developmental Services, School Days to Pay Days: An Employment Planning Guide for Families of Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities (2010), <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dmr/employment-support-school-days.pdf>, at 20.