

The Pima County Jackson Employment Center

Program Overview

The Jackson Employment Center (JEC) is the One-Stop Career Center providing a full array of employment services to Pima County's homeless population seeking to enter the workforce. JEC enrolls homeless men, women, families, and youth in an integrated Individual Service Strategy (ISS) program that results in a case plan and an Employability Development Plan for each client. The ISS approach involves an identification of client goals and the steps to be taken by both the participant and the Center to ensure goal attainment. Components of the Individual Service Strategy include intake assessment, employability skills instruction, self-directed job search strategies and job development, case management, vocational assessment and job training, and job retention/aftercare strategies.

The Jackson Employment Center has a prominent role in the City of Tucson/Pima County's Continuum of Care planning process. As such, JEC has both formal and informal collaborative and reciprocal relationships with the member agencies of the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless. These relationships have developed a process of shared planning and shared resources with both faith-based and community-based nonprofit organizations that provide HUD-sponsored transitional housing for program participants. This has allowed JEC to stay engaged with enrolled homeless participants over a longer period of time (up to 24 months) in which to provide vocational training programs, employment assistance, and the ongoing support of a comprehensive employment program to help this population overcome multiple employment barriers and succeed in the world of work.

In the last reporting year, a total of 356 participants were enrolled in the employment program at JEC and in the HUD Supportive Housing Program in a collaborative relationship with faith-based and community-based organizations. A total of 75 percent secured full-time employment at an average wage at time of placement of \$8.38/hour. A total of 74 percent retained both employment and housing at the six-month followup period.

Program Goals

The goals of the Jackson Employment Center are:

- To increase the skill/income levels of homeless participants seeking job opportunities
- To provide vocational job training opportunities to homeless participants, especially youth and Veterans
- To work within the Continuum of Care to provide transitional opportunities to working men, women, families, and youth
- To provide post-placement supportive services or aftercare to enhance job retention and career advancement.

The attached document is a summary of the Annual Progress Reports for FY 2002—2003.