

WORK PLACEMENT FORCE

The Work Placement Force Program supports adults living in Winnipeg and surrounding areas who experience mental health concerns or emotional problems with their goal of achieving competitive employment. Clients enjoy a higher quality of life through the financial independence and increased self-esteem that employment provides.

REFERRAL SOURCES

Applicants may be referred by Human Resources Centres, Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellors, Community Mental Health Workers, Social Services or any professional who has knowledge about the applicant's needs and abilities. Applicants may also self refer.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission are screened based on the following criteria:

1. Must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Currently unemployed or under employed.
3. Problematic work history.
4. Motivated to work and/or seek assistance to work.
5. Applicant agrees to participate in the program and is in agreement with the program goals and expectations.
6. History of mental illness or emotional difficulties and currently stable enough to manage the program.
7. Generally able to function in non-work areas of their life.
8. The services of the program would be of benefit to the applicant.

SUCCESSFUL CLIENTS

From our experience, individuals who are able to benefit the most from Work Placement Force Program services are:

- a) **Emotionally stable** to handle the stress of work re-entry and a 25-40 hour week job without experiencing a relapse in psychiatric symptoms (hallucinations, memory problems, panic attacks, incoherent thinking, etc.).
- b) **Realistic** in their employment goals and are willing to select jobs which are achievable with their current education, skills, and work readiness or are willing to upgrade their education, training and/or experience in order to achieve their employment goal.
- c) Able to take **responsibility** for their situation and to work cooperatively with program staff towards the goal of employment.
- d) **Committed** to the goal of achieving employment to invest time and energy in the process. They are not distracted from their goal of securing employment by other issues of a personal nature that create serious obstacles such as drug problems, serious family or relationship problems that have not been dealt with adequately.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

1. Potential applicants may attend an informational orientation before applying to the program. Applicants can register for the orientation by calling the Program Coordinator.
2. The Referral Form (to be completed by the professional working with the applicant) and the Application form (to be completed by the applicant) are sent to the Program Coordinator, Work Placement Force. In the case of a self referral the applicant fills out the Application form only.
3. Applicant will be invited to attend an intake interview at Sara Riel.
4. The Admission Committee meets regularly to review all applications.
5. The applicant is notified by telephone if accepted. Applicants not accepted will also be contacted by telephone. Applicants will be informed of the Admission Committee's decision and why they were not accepted. Whenever possible, recommendations will be made as to other more suitable programs or specific tasks to be completed before reapplication. At the applicant's request a letter may be sent to the applicant and/or referral agent outlining the above information.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Approximately 5 clients are accepted every 4 to 6 weeks. Clients typically spend one year in the program receiving the benefit of classroom instruction, counselling, and assistance with job search, work experiences, and work site support. There is no cost to the client for program services. Clients are responsible for their own transportation and incidental expenses (e.g. coffee money, etc.).

The classroom component provides 4 weeks of assessment and the development of skills in the areas of career choice, job search, job maintenance, communication skills, as well as, a support group.

Guided work search is available to clients looking for employment. The degree of support depends on the needs and abilities of the client. The program provides some marketing on behalf of clients but consideration is made for clients who do not want employers to know that they have a mental health concern and are part of a program. These clients receive the support of the program but the program does not market them directly. Clients have the opportunity to participate in the Work Search Team in order to obtain peer support and assistance with their job search.

The program also provides employment support to clients who are on work experiences and who are competitively employed. This may involve work site visits, performance evaluations, and assistance with problem solving, support as needed and crisis intervention.

Counselling and referral services are available to individuals who are experiencing personal, emotional or illness related issues and require assistance to deal with them. The program recognizes that these issues can often impact on employment performance if not dealt with.

Please direct any questions regarding referrals and programming to the Coordinator.

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Phone: 237-9559

Fax: 231-2871

www.sarariel.com