

Questions families have about employment support and how Texas resources | Living Hope Residential Care LLC

Supported Employment Resource List

Understanding Supported Employment

Q: What is supported employment?

Supported employment is a service that helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), mental health conditions, or other disabilities find and maintain paid employment in integrated, community work settings — alongside people without disabilities, in real jobs with real pay. It is distinct from sheltered or segregated work programs. The key element is the presence of trained, ongoing support that is customised to the individual's needs and faded as the person becomes more independent.

Q: Why is employment important for individuals with IDD?

Employment provides far more than income. Research consistently shows that individuals with IDD who participate in supported employment experience improved quality of life, greater community integration, better mental health outcomes, and higher self-esteem. Work provides structure, purpose, relationships, and a sense of contribution that profoundly improves daily wellbeing.

Q: How does Living Hope support residents with employment goals?

Living Hope Residential Care LLC integrates employment support into residential care. When a resident expresses interest in working, our team collaborates with their case manager, family, and vocational support resources to build a realistic pathway. We provide reliable transportation to and from work, help residents build workplace habits and social skills, and maintain communication with employers where appropriate.

The Supported Employment Process

Q: What does the supported employment process look like?

Supported employment at Living Hope follows these stages:

- Vocational assessment — identifying interests, strengths, and the right work environment
- Job development — connecting with local employers and identifying suitable opportunities
- Job coaching — on-site support while learning the role and workplace expectations
- Fading — gradually reducing coaching support as the individual builds independence
- Transportation — reliable rides to and from work remove a major practical barrier
- Follow-along support — ongoing availability if new challenges arise

Texas & Local Employment Resources

Q: What state programs fund supported employment in Texas?

Two key programs fund supported employment for individuals with IDD in Texas: (1) Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Vocational Rehabilitation — provides free job placement, skills training, and supported employment funding to eligible Texans with disabilities (call 1-800-628-5115 or visit twc.texas.gov). (2) HHSC Medicaid Waivers (HCS and TxHmL) — the Home and Community-based Services and Texas Home Living waiver programs fund supported employment for many individuals with IDD enrolled in a Medicaid waiver. Contact your LIDDA to discuss eligibility.

Q: What is a LIDDA and how do I contact one?

A Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) is the local entry point for IDD services in Texas, including supported employment. LIDDAs coordinate eligibility, waitlists, and service access. To find and contact your local LIDDA, call HHSC at 1-877-787-8999.

Q: Are there local workforce resources in Brazoria County?

Yes. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board operates local American Job Centers that provide employment services to job seekers with disabilities, including resume help, job matching, and employer connections. WorkInTexas.com is Texas's state job-matching system and is accessible to all job seekers, including those with disabilities.

Benefits, Compensation & Practical Questions

Q: Will working affect my loved one's SSI, SSDI, or Medicaid?

This is one of the most common and important questions families have — and the answer is nuanced. Working does affect SSI, SSDI, and potentially Medicaid benefits, but not necessarily in the ways people fear. There are income exclusions, work incentives, and protections built into the benefit system specifically to support people with disabilities who want to work. Benefits counseling from a certified Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) counselor can clarify exactly how work income will affect your loved one's specific situation. Ask your TWC VR counselor or LIDDA about accessing benefits counseling before your loved one starts work.

Q: What is WOTC and how does it help?

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers who hire individuals with certain disabilities. It can be a practical incentive for local businesses to hire supported employment participants. Our team can help explain WOTC to prospective employers when appropriate.

How Families Can Support Employment Goals

Q: What can I do at home to support my loved one's path to work?

Families are a critical part of supported employment success:

- Practice workplace social skills at home: arriving on time, following instructions, greeting others, asking for help
- Talk positively and enthusiastically about work — your attitude shapes their confidence
- Help establish and maintain the morning routine, transportation logistics, and work clothing prep
- Celebrate every milestone: first day, first paycheck, learning a new task
- Communicate concerns to the job coach or Living Hope team early — small problems are easier to solve

Tip: Ask about benefits counseling early

Before your loved one starts work, connect with a certified WIPA counselor to understand exactly how earnings will affect their benefits. This prevents surprises and helps your family make informed decisions about employment goals.

Ready to explore supported employment?

Contact Living Hope Residential Care LLC at 979-313-5300 or umukabba@gmail.com. We can help your loved one identify employment goals and connect with the right resources in Angleton and Brazoria County.

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