



JVS Boston and Boston College Collaborate on the Work Intervention Project WIN

At the outset of the pandemic, a group of ten vocational/counseling psychologists, a career practitioner from JVS Boston, and a sociologist convened to discuss the unemployment crisis. They concurred that the challenges evoked by the massive job losses required comprehensive and flexible sources of support and skill building. Building on the excellent services that are already available via employment and career transition agencies, training programs, and independent providers, the team designed six 75-90 minute workshops to be used in tandem or independently to support individuals who are unemployed and underemployed. The intention was to disseminate the workshop content as widely as possible at no cost to agencies or providers. Data will also be gathered for research purposes and to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative.

In January 2021, NJHSA brought together 18 member agencies to be trained on integrating this model into their program offerings. The feedback from the training was very positive.

"I thought this was the best training I have attended. Great job presenting and allowing us to ask questions. Have already implemented some aspects..."

"Thank you all for what was a very informative, well organized and uplifting zoom event this past week. I am intrigued by the ways in which we can be truly effective in helping job seekers...to move the needle. I look forward to staying involved and being a part of this very promising process."

"I think that the second module...could be particularly transformative for our clients given the increased barriers they face and their lack of experience with the US job market."

"We loved and are excited to bring it to our clients!"

"Thank you so much for bringing this exciting program to the Network agencies!"

NJHSA member agencies have already begun offering workshops, and taken advantage of available consultation by the WIN Team. An NJHSA sponsored follow-up training is planned in May where member agencies will provide feedback, suggestions or modifications as they pilot the initiative in their respective agencies, and are discovering ways that the roll-out can meet the needs of different populations, or agency needs and parameters more effectively.

For further information about the Work Intervention Network (WIN) Initiative, feel free to attend the WIN Lounge at the NJHSA Conference on Wednesday, April 21 from 10:45 am – 11:45 am EST, or reach out to Amy Mazur, NJHSA Workforce Development Professionals Affinity Group Co-Chair and Lead Career Counselor, JVS-Boston at amazur@jvs-boston.org.