



Impacting Substance Use Disorder Recovery

300

homeless individuals in Bloomington/Monroe County on any given day, based on Point in Time Count.

42%

of homeless individuals have a severe mental illness or a chronic substance use disorder.

50%

of some services are consumed by this demographic including emergency dept. services and law enforcement.

Supported Employment Overview

An important predictive factor in an individual's recovery journey is employment. In many cases, people with histories of homelessness, including those with disabilities or substance use disorder (SUD), want to work when given the opportunity and support to do so. Employment not only provides income, but offers a structured activity with dignity, provides a sense of purpose and promotes membership and social inclusion. Evidence indicates that employment before or during behavioral health and SUD treatment predicts both longer retention in treatment and increased likelihood of successful recovery.

With support from the City of Bloomington and Bloomington Health Foundation, Centerstone was able to expand an innovative pilot program to employ individuals who are homeless, facing SUD, and experiencing deep poverty. This program was modeled after employment programs around the country and informed by years of supportive employment experience.

Making an Impact

This local supported employment project has generated 21 weeks' worth of part-time paid employment for men and women in recovery and experiencing homelessness. Work crews accomplish landscaping work for the City during the warmer weeks of the year and cease activities in the winter. BHF's contributions to the program have allowed Centerstone to provide:

- **Landscape Employment Program Coordinator**
- **Ten hours of life-skills training and onboarding assistance per employee x 11 employees**
- **Passenger Van: 12-month lease for Supported Employment transportation in partnership with Curry Auto**

Centerstone reported that because of the City of Bloomington and Bloomington Health Foundation were willing to support this employment treatment approach, Centerstone is now seeing new opportunities to engage with local businesses in our community and engage them to be part of the solution to the issues of homelessness and substance use disorder.

Lasting Results

"Work has impacted my life in so many diverse, spiritual, and enlightening ways. I am so very grateful for the present and future work opportunity with Centerstone... My work has had an impact on so many lives throughout my days and I will not give up by any means, for there is so much more I want to experience, embrace, and grow from." -Centerstone Supported Employment Worker

Though this program, crew members have been empowered to seek additional employment opportunities leveraging the positive work experience they gained through this program. Roughly half of the crew members have been able to obtain and maintain paid employment since graduating from the program.