

## MYTHS & FACTS

### Working While Receiving Benefits:

**Myth: "You can work 20 hours a week, and your benefits are safe!"**

**FALSE** - Your benefits are based on how much you earn, not the number of hours you work.

**Myth: "If you work, you'll lose your benefits and never get them back."**

**FALSE** - Social Security offers work incentives to help you transition into employment. The Social Security Administration encourages people to work to the best of their ability. Even if your benefits decrease, you're still gaining financial independence. Plus, if you do work your way off benefits, there are options for expedited reinstatement if needed.

**Myth: "Working under the table protects me from reporting my wages."**

**FALSE** - Unreported income can create problems down the road. Employers may still report your earnings to the IRS, and failing to pay taxes could mean losing out on Social Security retirement benefits and tax credits that could put more money in your pocket.

**Information and Access to Services:  
810-488-8888**

**24-Hour Crisis Line:  
810-966-2575**

**[www.scccmh.org](http://www.scccmh.org) |    **

**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health**  
3111 Electric Avenue  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810) 985-8900

**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health  
Child & Family Services**  
2415 24th Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810) 488-8840

**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health - South  
Adult Services**  
6221 King Road  
Marine City, MI 48039  
(810) 765-5010

**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health - South  
Child & Family Services**  
135 Broadway  
Marine City, MI 48039  
(810) 400-4200

**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health - West**  
14675 Downey Road  
Capac, MI 48014  
(810) 395-4343



## Employment Services



**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health**  
*Providing Opportunities for Health, Wellness, & Connection*





## About Employment Services

Employment Services helps adults receiving services at St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH) find and maintain a job in the community. This program follows the evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model, helping you explore skills, interests, and goals for employment. Employment Specialists in the program work at your pace, ensuring you find the right job—not just any job.

## Is Working Right for Me?

Employment can be a meaningful part of your identity and recovery journey, offering benefits like increased income, self-esteem, social connections, independence, quality of life, and improved mental health. If you're considering work, we're here to help. Even if you've never worked before or have been out of the workforce for a while, it's never too late to start!

## The Choice is Yours!

The Employment Services Team is dedicated to helping you achieve your job goals. Your Employment Specialist will assist in finding opportunities that match your interests, skills, schedule, and location. The choice is always yours—Employment Services will never place you in a job you haven't chosen.

## How Will Work Impact My Benefits?

If you receive Social Security (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI), Medicaid, Medicare, Food Assistance Program (FAP), or other benefits, you may be concerned about how working could impact your financial situation. Our Certified Benefits2Work (B2W) Coach can provide one-on-one counseling to help you understand how employment may affect your benefits.

Even if you're not ready to enroll in Employment Services, the B2W Coach can meet with you to answer your questions about working and maintaining your benefits. Many people can work without losing essential health coverage, and our team can also assist with reporting wages and budgeting to help you plan for financial stability in the future.



## What to Expect

When you begin with Employment Services, you'll meet with an Employment Specialist, and you may also receive support from a Certified Peer Support Specialist or Mental Health Assistant. Our team has relationships with local employers and will help you explore job leads that match your skills and provide guidance on resumes, interviews, and workplace success.

Once you're working, your team will continue to support you as you adjust to your role, offering assistance with career planning, workplace challenges, and additional training opportunities. We also connect individuals with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) for resources such as educational support, work-appropriate clothing, and skill-building programs. The level of support provided is tailored to your individual needs and goals.

## Ready to Learn More?

If you're thinking about finding a job, talk with your case manager or clinician about Employment Services. An Employment Specialist can meet with you to discuss options—even if you decide it's not the right time, we'll be here when you're ready!