

## What is Supported Employment?

Supported employment helps people with mental illnesses find and keep meaningful jobs in Berrien County.

When people feel good about having a job, they see themselves in a more positive way. Employment gives people structure and routines and having income affords them more choices about what to buy and where to live.

## Your Goals. Your Strengths. Your Future.

At Riverwood Center, Supported Employment services use the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model to help people find and keep jobs that match their goals, interests, and strengths. IPS focuses on helping individuals work in regular community jobs while receiving ongoing support every step of the way.



## About Us

Riverwood Center, the service name of Berrien Mental Health Authority, is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), delivering quality mental health services and programs since 1975. Riverwood Center provides a wide variety of caring and confidential services to children, families and adults with mental illnesses, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.



LEARN MORE



## Contact

24/7 Crisis Line: 1-800-336-0341  
Direct Phone: 269-925-0585  
Customer Service: 1-866-729-8716  
Life-threatening Emergency: 911  
TTY: MI Relay Service at 7-1-1

## Locations & Hours

Benton Harbor (Main Office)  
1485 M139, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Main Office Hours:  
M-F, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Niles Office  
24 N. St. Joseph Ave., Suites A & G  
Niles, MI 49120

St. Joseph Office (\*Inside Corewell Health)  
3900 Hollywood Rd., Ste #245  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, hay servicios gratuitos de asistencia con el idioma para usted. Llame al 1-800-890-3712 (TTY: 7-1-1)

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## Supported Employment

Opening Doors to Independence and Opportunity

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[RiverwoodCenter.org](https://www.RiverwoodCenter.org)

## Build a Career with Purpose

At Riverwood Center, we work with each person to help them find and keep a job that matches their strengths, interests, and goals. Our focus is not on changing who someone is, but on helping them find the right fit for their skills and experiences.

Supported Employment services are personalized and ongoing, with support designed to help individuals build confidence, gain independence, and succeed at work and in daily life.

## Integrated Care

People who take part in Supported Employment at Riverwood Center can earn income, build confidence, and work toward greater independence. They also receive support through integrated care services.

Employment Specialists work closely with each person's care team, including care managers, psychiatrists, and other providers, to help support both employment and wellness goals. By combining mental health support with job coaching, Riverwood Center helps individuals succeed at work and in everyday life.

## Eligibility

Everyone is eligible to be referred for Supported Employment, no one is excluded.

Individuals are not prevented from participating, regardless of their psychiatric diagnosis, symptoms, work history, or other concerns.

## Equal Wages and Benefits

Supported Employment helps individuals find jobs that pay competitive wages, similar to other jobs in Berrien County. The focus is on competitive employment with client choice, attention to worker preferences, personalized benefits counseling, rapid job search, and time-unlimited, personalized support.

Employees may also receive benefits like health insurance and paid time off, making their work experience rewarding and stable. Supported Employment ensures that people not only find meaningful work but also enjoy the same benefits as others in the workforce.

## Ready to Get Started?

Getting started with Supported Employment at Riverwood Center is simple, just speak to anyone on your care team and they will make a referral to Supported Employment.

You may also reach out to Customer Service by calling 269-934-3478 or toll-free at 1-866-729-8716.



## How Does the Employer Benefit?

Riverwood Center's Supported Employment program is committed to assisting Berrien County businesses in meeting their staffing needs. Advantages to utilizing the program:

### Matching

Potential employees are matched to an employer's job description and culture. This allows for a great match for everyone.

### Reduced Risk

Participating employers receive ongoing support at no charge. The Support Employment Specialist will do everything to create a successful placement to ensure greater job retention.

### Job Coaching

Job coaching is provided at no cost to the employer. The Supported Employment Specialist stays in contact until the employee is efficient in completing their job requirements with ongoing support for as long as needed or requested.

### Success

Employers all over Berrien County are realizing success by hiring individuals from Riverwood Center. Together, we offer greater inclusion, a shared mission, and a healthier local economy.