

COVID-19 Response

Employment During COVID
March 2020 - July 2020
(for 977 individuals actively receiving job supports)

- **236 (24%) Individuals continued to work**
- **236 (24%) Returned to work after initial furlough**
- **470 (48%) Remained furloughed**
- **35 (4%) Individuals lost their jobs**

VCP network agencies worked with individuals, families, and guardians to determine essential worker status of people employed and whether their health and safety could be protected on their job site. Agencies used many strategies to support those who continued working during the pandemic:

- Ensured workers did the VT Department of Health VOSHA training
- Modified the environment and job for increased safety
- Ensured employers did their required business Safety Plan
- Instituted daily health checks of support staff and worker
- Provided "To Go" bags with sanitizer and equipment for car and job site
- Conferred with doctors before return to work for those with underlying health conditions
- Provided advocacy for furloughed workers through weekly meetings with employers
- Provided job site training to all workers, including those without staff supports, to ensure proper use of PPE and safe working conditions

COVID restrictions changed delivery of post-secondary training, with programs such as Global Campus switching to online classes and virtual final project presentations. Agencies and community partners worked together to provide quality remote-learning options.

Supporting Employment for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

VCP network agencies provided supported employment services to 1,353 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Supports include skills training for employment readiness, creating meaningful job matches, job site supports, transportation, services for transition age youth and post-secondary training.

IMPACT

As part of the State's commitment to self-determination and the belief that most people can work when provided the right supports, Vermont is a leader in the employment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

- 49% of people with I/DD served by agencies had jobs
- All workers were paid at Vermont minimum wage or higher
- Vermont was ranked #1 nationally for the number of people with I/DD who received supported employment services
- Agencies supported participation in post-secondary initiatives that lead to employment: SUCCEED program, College Steps, Think College and Global Campus
- 41% engaged in volunteer work - a stepping-stone to employment
- Workers stayed at their jobs for an average of 76.4 months

Supported Employment services provided the necessary supports to allow people with I/DD to work at typical jobs in their communities, as active taxpayers working alongside fellow Vermonters.



LCMHS Developmental Services Supported Employment Team