The Johnson & Johnson – Dartmouth Community Mental Health Programs and the Illinois Family Involvement initiative support Illinois’ Individual Placement and Support project as part of a multi-state family led effort.

The Illinois initiative was established to educate families of people with mental illnesses about this evidence-based, high-quality program and inspire them to advocate for creation, expansion, and improved access.

Our goal is to empower and support individuals with mental illnesses in attaining and maintaining sustained competitive employment with as much or as little support as needed!

Family Involvement Opportunities
There are many ways families may support this initiative including:

Support family members who are going through the Individual Placement and Support process.

Educate families and providers about IPS and how work helps in the recovery process.

Provide employment opportunities to people with mental illnesses.

Advocate for access to IPS and influence public policy and funding for IPS services.

Employment Outcomes
Increased economic independence
Improved self-image
Reduced problems associated with isolation
Reduced symptoms
Improved family relationships

If you would like additional information, contact NAMI Illinois:
namil@sbcglobal.net or call (217) 522-1403

NAMI Illinois

An evidenced-based approach to helping people with mental illnesses attain and maintain employment.
"Work is the most direct step to recovery, and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is the only evidenced-based practice for helping people get work."


In comparing day treatment programs and traditional vocational approaches to IPS, there is clear evidence of improved employment outcomes for consumers engaging in IPS services.

Individual Placement and Support Practices

- Every individual who wants to work is eligible.
- IPS services are integrated with mental health treatment.
- Competitive employment is the goal.
- Personalized benefits counseling is provided.
- Job search starts soon after an individual expresses interest in working.
- Follow-along supports are continuous.
- Individual preferences are a priority.
- Employment Specialists build relationships with employers based upon client job interests.

Case managers or counselors share hopeful messages about employment, provide information for the employment plan, and help with personal issues that can impact the job.

Vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors work with the client and other members of their teams to develop an employment plan.

Clients share their preferences for type of job, job location, work schedule, etc. Clients also share information about their previous jobs and about lessons they learned from past job experiences.

Employment Specialists provide as much assistance as needed to help their clients find good job matches. They also provide clients with ongoing job supports as needed.

Psychiatrists and Nurse Practitioners talk to clients about their employment goals and their jobs. Medications may be adjusted to help clients meet employment demands.

Family members identified by the clients may also be part of the team. Family members may provide helpful information, encouragement and practical assistance.