8 IMPORTANT POINTS TO SHARE...

...When assisting individuals interested in competitive integrated employment.

1. MANY PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU ARE WORKING AND EARNING MONEY!

Stay connected with the individual throughout their job search and employment journey offering encouragement, guidance, and wrap-around supports as needed. Whenever possible, share examples of other program participants who are successfully employed.



2. YOU HAVE TALENTS AND ABILITIES EMPLOYERS WANT AND NEED!

Assist individuals in recognizing their strengths, abilities, and skills, along with any necessary accommodations that might be needed for effective job performance. This process may include self-assessment and collaborating with others.



3. THERE ARE PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT JOB.

Link individuals to tailored employment services and support programs created for those with disabilities. This includes vocational rehabilitation services, job coaching, job placement aid, and skills training initiatives.



4. YOU CAN WORK, EARN MONEY, AND STILL KEEP YOUR WAIVER!

Inform the individual about their disability benefits, which include income support, healthcare coverage, and extra assistance programs. Discuss how their work earnings could affect these benefits and the eligibility criteria involved.



5. HELP IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH UNDERSTANDING BENEFITS.

Educate on government work incentive programs like the U.S. Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Programs, which can help individuals with disabilities keep benefits while being employed.



6. YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MONEY AND KEEP YOUR BENEFITS!

Assist the person to develop a plan that takes into account the use of available tools to manage resources in a manner that does not impact benefits, report income as required, and track expenses associated with employment to ensure they are appropriately utilized.



7. YOUR RIGHT TO WORK IS PROTECTED BY LAW.

Educate individuals on their rights protected by disability discrimination laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These laws ensure protection against discrimination in hiring, promotions, and workplace practices.



8. YOU CAN GET HELP IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH YOUR JOB.

Provide encouragement and support to help individuals boost their confidence in handling the challenges that may arise during job hunting and employment. Stress that you and others will be available to provide assistance with challenges they may encounter.

