



Connect to Work Experience

Housing Works of Washington County (HW) provides customers with vocational case management and stable housing which is a significant barrier to employment. This referral from the HW VCM was for a customer who was interested in an office administration position within a healthcare or non-profit organization.

The Work Experience Specialist (WES) worked with this customer on targeting her resume to specific positions within these industries, provided her with job and interview coaching, and explored various work experience options including one in particular that was most in line with the customer's career goals – an opportunity at Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a faith-based provider of support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The WES and VCM arranged for her to start at this organization as a Human Resource Assistant.

Throughout the duration of the work experience, the employer provided a supportive environment for the customer to learn various, valuable skills including applicant tracking systems through HRIS, HR laws, and vital HR practices. In addition, she gained additional administrative experience performing data tracking, arranging travel arrangements, and answering phones. A highlight of this customer's experience was that she represented the organization at a local job fair and her supervisor was very impressed with how she interacted with potential applicants.

After finishing her work experience, the customer was excited to enhance her computer skills. Her VCM at Housing Works arranged for her to begin computer training with New Horizons in order for her to be successful in her next steps towards long term employment.

Connect to Careers

The Professional Immigrant Credential Program (PICP) at SE Works assists customers with obtaining long-term employment based upon degrees or certificates received from their country of origin. The Connect to Careers Job Developer and Vocational Case Manager worked with this customer in preparing her for interviews in Dentistry which is her field of practice. The customer is a dentist in her country of origin, however, in the interim; she needed a job in this field as she continues her coursework to complete Oregon State dentistry requirements.

This customer was very involved and active in her employment search working closely with the Job Developer and Vocational Case Manager by attending mock interviews, participating in WorkSource workshops to practice and improve her writing, building upon her computer and English speaking skills as well as studying English dentistry terminology. She followed up on all job leads the Vocational Case Manager and Job Developer connected her with and interviewed numerous times at various dental offices throughout the Portland Metro area. She eventually secured a part-time job as a technician with a reputable private dentist office making \$11.50 hourly. To supplement her income, this customer is also working part-time at a bank. She has stated that she is thrilled to be back working in a dental office and looks forward to learning and growing with the business and securing her license to practice Dentistry.

We are open for referrals in all Connect to Services. For More Information please call:

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