

Employment, Emotional Support, and Mental Health: Resources for Assistance and Information in New York State

In these lists you will find resources for:

- Community-based HIV-focused Employment Programs
- Employment Programs – Statewide Programs with Local Offices
- Benefits Advisement for People Living with HIV Considering Work or Working in NYS
- Emotional Support and Mental Health Resources
- Additional Informational Resources

Please contact these resources directly for more information, to access services, and details about how assistance is available during COVID-19 related restrictions.

- **Community-based HIV-focused Employment Programs**
See "Employment Programs – Statewide Programs with Local Offices" for resources available locally across the state beyond this limited list.

Albany – HIV Employment Initiative Program

Albany Damien Center

728 Madison Avenue - Suite 100, Albany, NY 12208

Phone: 518-449-7119 ext.120 or ext. 118, or 518-641-9195

<http://www.albanydamiencenter.org/work.html>

The Albany Damien Center provides to people living with HIV in their Employment Pathways program include job search assistance (resume writing, cover letter writing, mock interviews, budgeting, applications, follow along services); benefits advisement; and linkages to potential employers, educational and training providers, support groups, childcare, medical aid and transportation, Department of Labor, job fairs, potential employers.

Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties) – HIV Employment Initiative Program

NADAP

50 Clinton Street, Suite 610, Hempstead, NY 11550

Contact: Joseph Sarno, jsarno@nadap.org; 516-620-1363

<https://www.nadap.org/employment-services>

NADAP's Nassau Employment Initiative (NEI) provides specialized vocational services to Nassau County and Suffolk County residents living with HIV or AIDS. NEI services includes: job readiness, vocational training, resume writing, identifying full-time and part-time job opportunities, case management

Rochester – HIV Employment Initiative Program

Catholic Charities Community Services

1099 Jay Street, Building J, Rochester, NY 14611

585-339-9800

<https://www.cccsrochester.org/hiv-aids/aids-employment>

HEI/Step Up to Employment: wrap around services including case management to help reduce or eliminate barriers to employment, job coaching, soft skills education, interview skills training, resume development, basic computer and internet skills, job search assistance and assistance enrolling in skilled labor trades, secondary education, or TASC/TABE/GED programs.

ACCES-VR Partnership: work readiness training classes and benefits advisement services

New York City – HIV Employment Initiative Programs

Alliance for Positive Change

64 West 35th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001

(212) 645-0875

Contacts:

Jean Pierre Louis: jean@alliance.nyc

Suri Medina: suri@alliance.nyc

<https://alliance.nyc/peerpower>

Alliance's Peer Training, Inc. (PTI) is a NYSDOH/AIDS Institute and OASAS authorized Peer Certification Training Center. Services include HIV foundational training (pre-requisite for peer certification), peer certification training, recovery coach training, peer internship placement, job-readiness counseling, resume-building, interview prep, and job coaching. Alliance/PTI offers people living with or affected by HIV peer training, peer coaching, and peer placement into paid internships through PTI. Eligibility: Peer training is provided for people living with or affected by HIV.

GMHC

Workforce Development Programs

307 West 38th Street, New York, NY 10018

April Watkins, Managing Director of Workforce Development

(212) 367-1030

<https://www.gmhc.org/services/workforce-development>

GMHC provides comprehensive vocational assessment, career exploration, SUNY ATTAIN

computer lab, training, including Microsoft Office Application training & certification, job readiness and placement assistance, resume prep, interviewing skills, business attire and job retention services to insure successful transition to work. Includes specialized programs for HASA participants, and youth.

Housing Works

Ready for Work (RFW) Program

57 Willoughby Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

(347) 473-7400

Contact:

Jennifer Lester, Program Director, Ready for Work

(347) 473-7429

j.lester@housingworks.org

<https://www.housingworks.org/services/job-training>

Housing Works' Ready for Work (RFW) Program is designed to prepare people living with chronic illness for careers, and to empower them with job readiness and life skills. Ready For Work is a 6-week job readiness training and internship program which serves individuals who are HIV-positive, or HIV-negative with at least two diagnoses of chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, heart condition, mental illness, substance use).

New York City – Additional Employment Services Resources

ACCES-VR

(Adult Career & Continuing Education Service-Vocational Rehabilitation)

New York State Education Department

Services are accessible at ACCES-VR District and Satellite Offices, located throughout the state, and in all five boroughs of NYC.

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>

1-800-222-JOBS (5627)

District Offices: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>

(see details in statewide resources below)

Alpha Workshops

245 West 29th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10001

(212) 594-7320

(646) 692-8091

studioschool@alphaworkshops.org

<https://alphaworkshops.org/>

Alpha Workshops Studio School (AWSS) provides tuition-free classes in decorative arts and painted finishes. Open to individuals living with visible and invisible disabilities, including but not limited to HIV/AIDS, this vocational program requires no prior arts experience for enrollment. Eligibility: Contracted with ACCES-VR to serve any person living HIV or other

disabilities eligible to enroll for services with ACCES-VR. Screening to ensure they can participate in the physical requirements of the program (e.g., amount of time standing, exposure to paints).

Destination Tomorrow

Career Readiness Program
452 E 149th Street, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY 10455
Main Office: (646) 723-3325
<https://destinationtomorrow.org/career-readiness>

Destination Tomorrow is a grassroots agency and the LGBTQ+ center of the Bronx borough. Destination Tomorrow's Career Readiness services include resume writing, matching clients to jobs for which they are suited, and support through the full job application process.

Translatina Network

FORWARD – TGNC Workforce Development Program
137 West 19th Street, 2nd Fl., New York NY 10011
Primary number: 646-882-2000
Infoline: 917-274-7886
Email: info@translatinetwork.org
<https://translatinetwork.org/forward-program>

FORWARD is Translatinetwork's workforce development for our immigrant and otherwise underdocumented community members. Through the FORWARD program, Translatinetwork pairs TGNC adults with the documentation, skills, and knowledge they need to successfully access sustainable jobs and employment. We can provide eligible community members with assistance connecting to legal services, documentation and replacement documentation, and culturally-sensitive workforce training.

Workforce1

NYC Department of Small Business Services
Virtual Workforce1 Career Center System:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/virtual-wf1cc.page>
Workforce1 Career Centers (in all 5 boroughs): <https://maps.nyc.gov/sbs>

Workforce1 services prepare and connect jobseekers to job opportunities in NYC. Services are delivered through a network of Workforce1 Career Centers located throughout the City's five boroughs and are available for New Yorkers age 18 and older. Workforce1 Specialty Services are provided in centers specializing in preparing and connecting candidates to jobs in the healthcare, industrial, and transportation fields, and services that will help local veterans and their spouses explore career paths, develop resumes, prepare for interviews, and identify education opportunities, training initiatives, and other support services.

- **Employment Programs – Statewide Programs with Local Offices**

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ACCES-VR's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors guide participants through individualized plans for employment consistent with their strengths, aptitudes and interests. Depending on the needs and abilities of the individual, services might include vocational training or college, supported employment or direct job placement. ACCES-VR assists eligible individuals with disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment, serving individuals with a disability who are able and motivated to work, including youth (as young as 16) and adults. The spectrum of disabilities is very broad and may include conditions that affect physical or emotional functioning, the way people learn or communicate and may (or may not) require on-going medical treatment, therapy or addiction recovery services.

American Job Centers – New York State Career Centers

New York State Career Center Locator:

<https://labor.ny.gov/career-center-locator>

Online New York State Career Services:

<https://labor.ny.gov/careerservices/CareerServicesIndex.shtm>

The American Job Centers, with online resources and locations statewide, help people search for jobs, find training, access career development services and a statewide job bank, and answer other employment-related questions.

NYS Certified Peer Worker Program – Peer Training and Certification Information and Resources

HIV Education & Training Programs, AIDS Institute, NYS Department of Health

Justin LeGreci, Program Coordinator

Justin.LeGreci@health.ny.gov

<https://www.hivtrainingny.org/Home/PeerCertification>

Peer training and certification are available for the HIV, HCV, and/or Harm Reduction (HR) Peer Certification Tracks. The NYS Certified Peer Worker Program coordinates an employment opportunities email list linking hiring agencies with peer workers seeking employment:

<https://www.hivtrainingny.org/PeerCert/listserv>

Ticket to Work Program

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp>

Ticket to Work service providers offer Social Security disability beneficiaries (persons who receive SSI or SSDI) age 18 through 64 who want to work with free job support. Services offered may include job coaching, job counseling, training, benefits counseling and job placement.

- **Benefits Advisement for People Living with HIV Considering Work or Working in NYS**

Benefits Counseling Pilot Project

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has launched the Benefits Counseling Pilot Project to help people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) who are employed or seeking employment to understand how earnings impact their public benefits. Participants will learn what benefits they can receive while they are working to increase their financial independence.

To be eligible for benefits counseling services, you must:

- have documented proof of HIV/AIDS status
- be a New York State Resident
- meet all income requirements
- complete an intake/assessment for HIV related needs/services
- be currently employed or searching for employment and need assistance with understanding how your earnings affects/will affect your benefits

Credentialed benefits counselors provide one-on-one support by helping to:

- calculate benefit amounts based on your earnings
- educate you on special work rules and additional benefits
- budget money to plan for your future
- explain medical insurance coverage such as Medicaid/Medicare
- access networks of community providers and resources
- refer you to legal, employment and other services.

Benefits Counseling Pilot Project - Providers

Central NY

Legal Services of Central New York 315-703-6597

Finger Lakes

LawNY (in association with Volunteer Legal Services Project) 607-273-3667

Northeastern NY

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (in association with Albany Law School) 518-462-6765

Western NY

Neighborhood Legal Services (in association with Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project) 716-847-0650 ext. 253

Hudson Valley

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley 877-574-8529

Long Island

Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee 631-232-2400

New York City

The Family Center 718-230-1379

African Services Committee 212-222-3882

New York Council on Adoptable Children 212-475-0222

- **Emotional Support and Mental Health Resources**

Project Hope – New York’s COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline

844-863-9314 (hotline)

COVID-19 Information Page (NYS DOH): <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

NY Project Hope helps New Yorkers understand their reaction and emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through an emotional support helpline, educational materials, and trusted referrals, NY Project Hope helps people manage and cope with changes brought on by COVID-19. Project Hope Crisis Counselors understand what you are going through. Talking to them is free, confidential, and anonymous. Talk to someone who is trained, knowledgeable and never judges. Sometimes it helps to talk with someone you don’t know.

New York State – Crisis Resources

- **If you need immediate medical assistance, please dial 911.**
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- **New York State Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-942-6906
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text "Got5" to 741-741
- Frontline worker? Text "FRONTLINENY" to 741-741 for specialized support

HOPEline Services – Phone and text message support to NY’ers experiencing substance use problems and problem gambling

1-877-8-HOPENY or text HOPENY.

Toll-free and confidential, and available 24/7.

The New York State HOPEline provides high quality, responsive information, and referral services via phone and text message to callers throughout New York State experiencing

substance use problems and problem gambling. The HOPEline responds to callers and follows-up to ensure that referrals result in intake appointments and to provide support and additional referrals as appropriate. The implementation of a multiple language HOPEline provides callers with access to bilingual staff to provide services in English and Spanish, as well as the 5 other languages that are required by the state of New York (Bengali, Traditional Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Korean, and Russian).

- **Additional Informational Resources**

National Working Positive Coalition

info@workingpositive.org

<https://www.workingpositive.org>

The National Working Positive Coalition (NWPC) (a) promotes research, development and implementation of effective practices in employment services, (b) coordinates sharing and dissemination of this information, and (c) advocates for healthy work options and opportunities for people living with or at greater vulnerability to HIV.

The NWPC consists of people living with HIV, researchers, and service providers. We endorse the Denver Principles and believe that people living with or at greater vulnerability to HIV have the right to explore and engage in work opportunities as a central function of their efforts to live full, independent and satisfying lives. We provide culturally responsive training and technical assistance.

Employment and Living with HIV/AIDS: A Resource Guide

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/odep/topics/hivaids/employmentlivingwithhivaids.pdf>

Employment is an essential part of leading an independent, self-directed life for all people, including people living with HIV/AIDS. If you are a person living with HIV/AIDS and are interested in seeking employment or considering changing your employment situation, the questions and answers in this document may help you get started. Topics include:

- Legal rights and protections
- Resources and strategies for getting a job
- Financial impacts and tax incentives

What You Should Know: HIV/AIDS and Employment Discrimination

<https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/what-you-should-know-hivaids-employment-discrimination>

This resource provides an overview of laws to protect individuals from employment discrimination based upon HIV status and information on how to file a charge of employment discrimination.