

Yale University/Liberty Community Services, Inc.

POWER (Pursuing Opportunities With Employment & Resources)

CHALLENGE

Participants have reluctance to pursue employment for a variety of reasons: impact on benefits, legal issues, spotty or limited work histories, etc.

HIV/AIDS services are new to the employment world due to the evolution of the effectiveness of treatment.

STRATEGIES

Based upon the job club promising practice, **POWER** brings people together for 16 sessions to explore their strengths, education & training, self-improvement, work and other options on the "employment continuum."

Measures: baseline scales, feedback at regular intervals to shape group.

- High degree of participant satisfaction
- Desire to continue after the cycle of 16
 sessions
- 37% employment rate for participants
- Participant-driven program content.
- People appreciate and USE the resources presented
- Increased awareness of the community around them.
- Decreased sense of isolation.

TIPS

- People are at different stages re: work
- Introduce them to progressive options, i.e., education, volunteerism, financial empowerment, training, employment programs, jobs, etc.
- Customize job club resources/manuals for your organization
- Build partnerships
- Focus on strengths
- Food and giveaways