

## Unemployment

For people living with mental illness, work can be a critical factor that helps promote health, recovery and social inclusion. Yet, 60-80% of people who live with mental illnesses are *unemployed*. And for people living with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder the unemployment rate can be as high as 90%.

This disproportionately high unemployment of people living with mental illness is both unnecessary and very costly. Our nation pays a high price in loss of productivity, earnings and human potential, as well as in disability benefits and use of public services.

The majority of people living with mental illnesses *want to work*. Investment in evidenced based, supported employment programs such as CFI's Work Opportunities can reduce unemployment, promote social inclusion and save millions in public assistance costs while increasing productivity and tax revenues. Help make a difference in the community!

