

# The Second Life Job Training Program

New York State's first and most successful  
job training and placement program for  
homeless people living with HIV/AIDS



HOUSING WORKS

## History

- In keeping with Article 25 and Housing Works' Mission, the JTP was born in 1991
- Shortly after, a group of twelve clients petitioned the then co-executive directors to develop a weekly support meeting facilitated by a staff member
- After a few weekly meetings they drafted another petition demanding that the program be developed into a meaningful job training program that offers the possibility of real employment

# The Application Process

We start with a competitive selection process that is peer governed

Applicants are selected based on the following:

- an openness to learning
- commitment to full time employment at Housing Works
- the ability to overcome life's obstacles
- pass the Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE) entrance examination



# What We Do

- Provides training, counseling, placement and employment
- Guarantees full time employment for graduates at Housing Works, Inc. or one of our entrepreneurial ventures
- Provides intense on-the-job training, academic classroom learning and a variety of support
- Operate two phases – Pre-vocational ( 1quarter); and Vocational Phase (2 or more quarters)

# Program Accomplishment

- To date, **289** graduates have obtained full time employment at Housing Works and its subsidiaries which means that they have moved from public assistance to the economic mainstream and built productive, financially independent lives, and professional careers.

**84% are still employed at Housing Works after 6 months**

**60% are still employed at Housing Works after 1 year**

**38% are still employed at Housing Works after 2 years**

- Many graduates have found employment outside of Housing Works



# The Bottom Line

- Traditional job training programs generally fail their participants because neither the job training provider nor the potential employer, usually separate entities, has a meaningful stake in the long-term success of program participants, particularly those participants at high risk for failure
- Housing Works has established an unrivaled reputation for serving, training, and successfully employing individuals who other providers deem incapable, or worse, unworthy of being served
- In addition to being committed employees, graduates assume leadership roles both within the peer-governed structure of the JTP and within the larger Housing Works community and are a living legacy of success for those who come after them