

## Client Highlight:

*"Before this program, I was extremely burned out and have been struggling to believe in myself and my ability to work again. Desiree walked me through difficult tasks while I was in a dark place, and ultimately helped me see the light in myself again. Each step of the way I was met with compassion and understanding, as she always established a sense of trust and safety during our meetings. She helped me raise my own awareness of my strengths and challenges, along with developing tools to stay more on track, in order grow and achieve employment goals. I truly would not be where I am today without her support and am forever thankful."*

## IPS Principle of the Month

### Zero Exclusion

Individuals are not excluded from participating in IPS on the basis of readiness, diagnoses, symptoms, substance use history, psychiatric hospitalizations, homelessness, level of disability, or legal system involvement.

### What would you say to someone considering participating in IPS?

*"Not knowing where to start can be nerve-racking. It is okay to have those emotions, just know that we are here to assist you during that process."*

*-Valerie Origel, IPS Employment Specialist*

## ES Spotlight

### Meet Valerie Origel, IPS Employment Specialist

We are excited to welcome Valerie Origel to the IPS team. Valerie is one of our two new Employment Specialists that have recently started here at the Ben Gordon Center. Valerie started June 2023.

**Assigned Teams:** CSP/CST Teams

**Last book you read:** "Too Late" by Colleen Hoover

**My favorite part of working on the IPS team?** My favorite part of working with

IPS is that everyone is willing to assist and gives the opportunity to give more resources to our clients.

**How do you take care of your mental health?** I care for my mental health by either reading, time spent with family/friends or crafting.



# IPS FAQs

Can I participate in IPS if I already have a job?

Yes! If you believe your mental health makes it difficult for you to obtain new employment or maintain your currently employment, then you are eligible to participate in IPS.

Is IPS a staffing agency?

No, IPS is not a staffing agency. Staffing agencies recruit employees on behalf of employers looking to fill positions and help candidates find jobs. IPS helps support you in your own job search process. Employment Specialists (ES's) will help support you by: helping you develop resume writing skills, preparing with you for interviews, exploring ways to manage your mental health symptoms and more!

How can IPS support me after I've been hired?

Your ES will continue to support you as you manage your mental health in the work place. This can include weekly check-ins, on-site job coaching, supportive counseling, and helping to identify and implement skills that will make managing your mental health at work easier.

How do I get started?

If you are receiving services at the Ben Gordon Center, you can be referred through any of your other providers.

If you are new to BGC or want to speak to someone on the team directly, please feel free to reach out to our Team Lead, Justin Bartlett. You can reach him at 779-212-9478

## 8 Key Principles of IPS

Zero Exclusion

Worker Preferences

Integrated Services

Competitive Employment

Rapid Job Search

Benefit Planning

Systematic Job Development

Time-Unlimited Supports



### Client Quote:

**How has employment improved your mental health?**

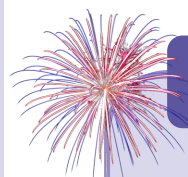
*"Before this program I struggled to get out of bed all day long. Now, I am doing some small farm work here and there and recently secured a remote position that works well for me. I have found my sense of purpose and confidence again, along with having more energy to do the things I love with the people I love."*

### IPS STATS

Clients served by IPS:

56

Percent of clients  
employed: 37%



Still unsure if IPS is right for you?  
Have additional questions?

For more information contact:  
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