

Employment

The Basics: Employment

Introduction for the Trainer

Key Content

During this session, participants will learn why having a job is important, what they need to do to find a job, and what their rights as workers are.

Main Messages

Finding, getting, and keeping a job is critical to a refugee's successful adjustment and self-sufficiency in the United States. Although an employment specialist will help a refugee look for a job, the refugee must work closely with the specialist in the job search and perform well to keep the job. Trainers should stress that participants should accept the first job that is offered to them, even if it is not in their field, so that they can build a work history and begin to support their family. To build a good work history, refugees should stay in their job for at least 6 months.

Participants need to know that, for most refugees, public assistance is limited in the amount and the length of time it is given. They also need to know that if they do not take a job that is offered to them, they may lose public assistance.

Employees in the United States have the right to be paid for their work and to work in a safe and healthy environment.



25 minutes

Objectives

Participants will be able to do the following:

- ▶ Describe why getting a job is important
- ▶ State their responsibility to find a job
- ▶ State and explain the importance of staying at a job
- ▶ Describe the right to be paid for working and to work in a safe environment

Materials

- Basics of Employment Questions (included)
- Flipchart paper, markers, and tape

Key English Vocabulary

- ▶ *employer/employee*
- ▶ *employment*
- ▶ *job*
- ▶ *I need a job.*

Trainer’s Introduction of Session to Participants

Supporting your family is important to your family’s future and well-being in the United States. During this session, we will talk about why getting and keeping a job is important. You will receive help in your job search from a resettlement agency staff member or an employment specialist, but you must work closely with them to find a job. Workers in the United States have the right to be paid and to work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment.

Introductory Exercise

Conduct a “think-pair-share” exercise by asking participants to think about why having a job is important.

Ask participants to share their thoughts about this with a partner. Bring the full group together and ask for highlights from the partner discussions. Record ideas on flipchart.

Briefly review the key English vocabulary for this plan by saying the first word aloud in English. Participants say the word to a partner, and then all together as a group. Continue in the same way with the rest of the words and the sentence. Throughout the session, emphasize the words as they come up and use the sentence whenever there is an opportunity. If there is time (8 to 10 minutes), use the unit vocabulary found at the end of this unit to help participants better understand key English vocabulary words.

Activity

Divide participants into groups of four to five. Ask the groups to each choose a spokesperson who will share the highlights of their discussion.

Read the first Basics of Employment Question aloud. Small groups discuss the question for a few minutes.

Bring the full group together. Ask spokespeople to share highlights from their small group discussions with the full group. Record highlights on flipchart paper and discuss the responses to the question. Provide accurate information as necessary.

Continue with the rest of the Basics of Employment Questions in the same way.

When finished, debrief the activity with the full group using the questions below.

Debriefing Questions

- ▶ Why is it important to have a job in the United States?
- ▶ Who is responsible for finding jobs for you and members of your family?
- ▶ Why is keeping a job important in the United States?
- ▶ What is a right as a worker that you have in the United States?

Working With Individuals

When working with an individual, conduct the introductory exercise by asking the participant to think about why having a job is important. Discuss this with the participant. Then discuss the Basics of Employment Questions in the same way.

Variations and Considerations

If possible, group participants by language background for the activity so that they can communicate in a common language.

If needed, use translated versions of the Basics of Employment Questions.

Consider having small groups change the spokesperson for each Basics of Employment Questions during the activity.

Basics of Employment Questions

1. Who in your family has worked before?
2. Who in your family is able to work in the United States?
3. Who is responsible for you and your family members finding a job?
4. Once you have a job in the United States, why is it important for you to keep that job?
5. What rights do workers in the United States have?