

MEMO
TESTIMONY

To: Appropriations Committee Testimony
Fr: Joseph Anastasi
Re: STAR INC....Lighting the Way
Date: 3/2/21

My name is Joseph Anastasi and I'm a job developer at STAR INC in Norwalk CT. I wanted to testify today about what we do at STAR INC with regards to our employment services platform. I am certified in customized employment which guides us through a process of identifying participants skills and matching those skills with meaningful employment opportunities. It is truly remarkable to see the impact on participants and families when employment is achieved! The ROI within our initiatives go way beyond any financial metrics; the results reflect a greater level of self esteem, pride and ultimately a greater level of independence for our participants. In my personal opinion, employment is transformational and is life changing for our community.

The fallout of the Covid lockdowns to our employment partners was accute and devistating! Our program and participants were impacted with wide spread layoffs and work stoppage. It will take a massive effort to re engage our employment platform and get our community back to work. We will have to be innovative, creative and aggressively persue current and new businesses channels to re establish our employment network. To that end, the resources and funding will have to reflect the amount of work needed to succeed!

In closing I am bullish about the future of our employment services program and I'm certain with the right support and resources that we will be able to exceed our expectations and get everyone who wants to work....back to work!

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Joseph Anastasi
STAR INC. Lighting the Way