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**Secure Jobs Initiative FY17 Progress Report through January 2017**

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| **Total Placements** | |
| **Total Placements (FY17)** | **Total Program Placements (All Years)** |
| 56 | 469 |

**Average Wage FY15:** $10.46

**Average Wage FY16:** $11.35

**Average Wage FY17:** $11.88

**December Average Wage:** $12.25

**Hampden County Goals versus Outcomes:**

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| **Proposed Outcomes** | **Goal** | **Year to date Progress** |
| Assessments | **92** | **104** |
| Enrollments | **46** | **93** |
| Placements | **37** | **56** |
| Retain Employment 1 yr. | **80%** | **92%** |
| FY16 Retain Employment 1 yr.  AND maintain stable housing | **50%** | **64% see breakdown below** |

**Employment and Housing Retention Information for FY16:**

Of the 216 enrolled in the program for FY16, 158 were in Employment Retention.

**Success Story:**

Barbie G. is a single mother of a teenage daughter who began her journey to self-sufficiency in a motel room in Springfield. After initially being very resistant to the idea of work and being pushed by her rehousing worker to meet with a HAP Housing Employment Specialist, she did. Barbie was difficult to engage with and it took time to break down her walls and get to know her, her dreams, and what she thought was best for her daughter. Her Employment Specialist recommended that she attend the job readiness cohort to brush up on her skills since she had been out of the workforce for a while. Barbie proved difficult to engage into the cohort and dropped out after only a few days. She continued to meet sporadically with her Employment Specialist and he learned that she had been a CNA in the past and she really enjoyed caring for people. After telling Barbie that Secure Jobs could help pay for her to renew her state CNA license and help her with job placement, she began to warm up to the idea of going back to work. She agreed to attend the job readiness cohort and once that was complete, she was sent through a CNA training program. During this time, Barbie was moved from the motel into a Residential Resource Center and continued to receiving housing supports. Through the use of flexible funds, Secure Jobs was able to provide Barbie with the resources she needed to become employed: bus passes to get to interviews, pay for her physical, TB test, and Hepatitis B vaccine for work, and helped her get new scrubs for work. Not long after she completed her state certification, Barbie was hired at PCMC, a home care company out of Springfield, working 32 hours a week making $12.00/hr. It was not Barbie;s first choice to have a travelling CNA position but she worked hard in her job and built up her resume. She was hired not long ago at Willimansett West nursing Home in Chicopee making $12.50/hr and working 35 hours a week. She is currently in a Scattered Site and is thankful for the assistance she received from Secure Jobs in her journey back to the workforce.