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**Secure Jobs Initiative FY17 Progress Report through January 31, 2017**

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| **Total Placements** | |
| **Total Placements (FY17)** | **Total Program Placements (All Years)** |
| 61 | 475 |

**Average Wage FY15:** $10.46

**Average Wage FY16:** $11.35

**Average Wage FY17:** $12.32

**January Average Wage:** $12.44

**Hampden County Goals versus Outcomes:**

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| **Proposed Outcomes** | **Goal** | **Year to date Progress** |
| Assessments | **92** | **136** |
| Enrollments | **46** | **108** |
| Placements | **37** | **61** |
| 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:**

Zakeya S. has been a Secure Jobs participant since Phase 2 of the program. She originally was referred to Secure Jobs during her time in a HAP congregate shelter. Upon meeting with her Employment Specialist it became clear that Zakeya had the drive and motivation to move out of shelter quickly and to work. Given her experience in the food industry working on an assembly line in a meat packaging facility and her various positions in fast food, she was referred to take part in Kate’s Kitchen, a job training program facilitated through Providence Ministries in Holyoke, MA. Upon completion of the program, Zakeya was Serve Safe certified with food handling and management. Zakeya was quickly hired at Sodexo working in the dining common at STCC. This was a perfect match for Zakeya as she had enrolled in a Business Management program at STCC with a concentration in entrepreneurship. Zakeya balanced work, school, housing search, and caring for her four children during this time. She was moved into her own unit in June 2015 with the help of Homebase. All was going well for Zakeya until the end of her summer semester when she was let go by Sodexo. With no job and a new apartment and school beginning in a few short weeks, she knew she had to get back to job searching and was re-referred to SJI by her stabilization case worker. Zakeya was determined to stay on the path to achieve her culinary goals and started to apply for jobs in food service. She was hired at C&S Wholesale Grocers through the relationship that SJI has with the employer and received assistance in getting to and from work from the program as well. She was making a decent paycheck but when the transportation ended, she was unable to get to work. She had to put her notice in with this employer and found herself looking for a job again. Zakeya was hired not long after as a chef at the new Applebee’s in Holyoke and loves what she does. She works shifts that are conducive to her schooling and being a mom. Her Homebase ended in May 2016 and she has been able to sustain her rent on her own. She was also selected for a student leadership committee at STCC and is excited for what is to come upon graduation.