

# Economic Well-being Among People Who Use Drugs

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Employment has **important impacts** on **well-being**

Social, economic,  
health & criminal  
justice policy



Most people's drug use **does not** impact their work

Some people who use drugs (PWUD) have **lower employment levels** and **higher job instability**

Employment is linked to the **social, physical and structural environment**

Without adequate income, PWUD often rely on **prohibited or illegal income sources**, linked to **harms**

**Opportunity gap:** despite barriers many PWUD want **more** and **better work**

**SOCIAL  
POLICY  
IS  
DRUG  
POLICY**

Reforming social policy to reduce drug-related **harm** is important, but **complex**

Organizations are **innovating** to provide **accessible, meaningful opportunities**

PWUD may rely on **important but inadequate income supports** that can produce **harm**