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August 6, 2026- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CN Guidance Awarded More Than \$1.5 Million to Expand Employment Services for Individuals in Recovery

Funding from New York State OASAS will support vocational rehabilitation counselors and job placement assistance across Long Island

(Hicksville, NY) Employment is a critical component of long-term recovery, yet many individuals receiving treatment for substance use disorders face significant stigma and barriers when seeking meaningful work. To help address these challenges, CN Guidance & Counseling Services has been awarded more than \$1.5 million in funding over five years through the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to expand vocational and employment services for individuals in treatment and recovery.

The funding will enable CN Guidance to hire two Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors who will serve as dedicated vocational specialists working alongside the agency's substance use disorder treatment and recovery programs. These professionals will provide individualized employment support designed to help clients achieve greater independence, stability, and long-term recovery success.

Founded in 1972, CN Guidance is a leading Long Island behavioral health nonprofit, providing comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services through a wraparound care model. The organization brings more than 15 years of experience delivering vocational rehabilitation, employment support, and job development services throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. The new vocational counselors will assist clients by:

- Identifying and pursuing employment and career goals
- Developing resumes and job-search strategies
- Preparing for interviews and workplace success
- Providing job development and placement support
- Connecting clients with local employers, workforce development programs, and community resources
- Educating employers about the benefits of hiring individuals in recovery

OASAS Commissioner Dr. Chinazo Cunningham said, “Employment can play a major role in the recovery of individuals impacted by addiction. Unfortunately, many still face stigma and barriers to



finding work. This innovative effort will strengthen the support system here in New York, helping people build job skills through training efforts, and providing job placement assistance supporting their recovery and long-term health goals.”

"Employment can be transformative for individuals in recovery, providing financial stability, renewed confidence, and a sense of purpose," **said Caitlin Roeder, CN Guidance Senior Director.** "Through this program, we will be able to strengthen the support we provide to clients as they work toward recovery and build meaningful, productive futures."

"We are deeply grateful to the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports for strengthening our ability to provide job placement assistance as an integral part of treatment and recovery," **said Jeffrey Friedman, CEO of CN Guidance.** "Recovery extends beyond clinical care. Meaningful employment helps individuals regain independence, reconnect with their communities, and build a foundation for long-term success. This funding will allow us to expand opportunities for the people we serve and help them achieve their personal and professional goals."

***About CN Guidance and Counseling Services:** Serving children and adults with mental and emotional disorders since 1972, CN Guidance delivers NY-State licensed mental health and substance use treatment services – especially to economically disadvantaged individuals and families, including many communities of color – working in partnership with county government and other community services. With deep, localized knowledge of Nassau County and Suffolk County communities, a 24/7 crisis center, mobile fleet, telehealth capabilities, and a NY State Integrated Outpatient Services license, CN Guidance maintains an exemplary track record of delivering outreach and high-quality behavioral healthcare to more than 25,000 individuals per year. For more information, visit <https://cnguidance.org/>*