Employment Scenarios

Sonya, 27, has a one-year certificate for administrative services and has been a receptionist for 4 years, but the company where she worked closed down five months ago. Sonya looked for another job but she admits that she was overwhelmed by the financial problems associated with her loss of income. The job paid only $8.50/hour and she never had enough left at the end of the month to save. She could no longer pay for daycare and stayed home with her 3 year-old daughter until they lost their apartment. Sonya tried to stay with friends, but she says her daughter's crying (and her own) was hard to put up with and she was always asked to "move on" within a few days. Now she is in a shelter and finds it frightening to be in close proximity with "so many people with problems." She tries to spend as much time as possible in her room in the shelter, comforting her daughter. She wants a job so she can have her life back. Unemployment is high in her community and there is a lot of competition for low-level administrative job vacancies.

Would you:

___ Immediately refer Sonya to an employment program, while she is locating housing
Why?

___ Refer her to an employment program, but not for 30-90 days
Why?

___ Make no employment referrals
Why?

SEE BACK FOR CASE #2

Leonard, 57, has a checkered work history. He has worked in retail, custodial services, and as a security guard. Nearly all of his jobs have lasted less than a year. Sometimes the jobs were temporary and ended. Sometimes Leonard quit, sometimes he was "let go" for absenteeism. He never liked any of his jobs but, "you do what you have to." This is his first episode of homelessness. He's been staying in a pup tent in the woods and spending his days drinking "a few glasses" of cheap vodka. He says he'd rather retire now, as he's feeling "too old to work." However, he has no retirement savings or pension.

Would you:

___ Immediately refer Leonard to an employment program, while she is locating housing
Why?

___ Refer him to an employment program, but not for 30-90 days
Why?

___ Make no employment referrals
Why?