Putting Veterans First

Compensated Work Therapy Program

What About the Job Search Component?

The VRC will work one-on-one with you to develop your resume, practice interviewing skills, completing applications, and searching for employment opportunities. Together, you conduct job search activities on a weekly basis. We will assist you in making several employer contacts each week. We also work with the local WorkSource Offices through Employment Security for provision of job leads.

If you are only interested in changing jobs, obtaining new employment, or just need help with your job search, we can provide job search assistance independent of any participation in the Work Therapy component of this program. We provide interest, aptitude and ability testing to help you in selection of a vocational goal. We also offer several vocational classes/groups to help you prepare for returning to work and to support you while in your job search. These are educational and informational in nature and cover topics such as resume writing, interviewing skills, work possibilities, money management, problem solving, and much more!

Community Reintegration Services

The mission of Community Reintegration Services (CRS) is to assist Veterans to reach their highest level of productivity by preparing them for re-entry into the community and the workforce.

Compensated Work Therapy

Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Work Experience (CWT/TWE) is one program offered under the CRS umbrella. This is a work oriented, psychosocial, clean and sober program for Veterans interested in returning to work. The goal of the program is to provide the opportunity for Veterans to prepare for suitable employment and to learn appropriate work behaviors.

CWT/TWE addresses the vocational needs of individual Veterans through assessment, counseling, and on-the-job training, while aiding the Veteran in his or her commitment to their individual rehabilitation and recovery. CWT/TWE is incorporated into treatment planning for both inpatient Veterans and outpatient Veterans. We also cooperate with other Vocational Service providers such as the Veterans Benefits Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program or Ch 31 and the State of Washington, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
What is Involved?

With the assistance of a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Veterans select a vocational goal to pursue with consideration given to his or her current skills as well as interests, aptitudes, and abilities. The program has two central components - 1) a temporary work assignment to practice work skills in a safe environment prior to transitioning to community employment and 2) assistance with job search and job placement.

A work assignment at VAMC or in the community is designed to closely resemble competitive employment for Veterans who are employment ready. This is the temporary work component of the program. The VRC also provides the Veteran with counseling and guidance to transition from CWT/TWE towards gainful employment in the community. This the job search component of the program.

What types of Temporary Work Opportunities are Offered?

Assembly, disassembly, cleaning, inspecting, sorting, packaging, industrial cleaning, housekeeping, painting, landscaping, wheelchair repair, food preparation, quality control, ground maintenance, cashiering, customer service, clerical, data entry, supply management, inventory control, shipping/receiving, laundry sorting, light production and stocking.

Want to Learn More?

If you are interested in working, talk with a member of your treatment team (case manager, social worker, physician, etc.). A privileged provider can send a consult for services to Vocational Services at either Seattle VAMC or American Lake VAMC. You will then be contacted by a VRC in order to discuss return to work options and to schedule a face to face appointment.

Who to Contact?

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