Helping Veterans Reach Their Highest Potential

Incentive Therapy

Payment, Worksite Availability and Work Schedules
All individuals who participate in the IT program are financially compensated for the scheduled hours they work. Because this is a therapeutic work program, the payment rate cannot exceed 50% of the current federal minimum wage.

IT program worksites are limited to those available through the Medical Center. Every effort is made to place program participants in worksites that most closely meet their interests and abilities.

Work schedules are individualized based on the program participants needs. Based on individual needs, an outpatient program participant may work as many hours as appropriate. Inpatient IT program participants are limited to 24 hours per week.

Where are Incentive Therapy Services Available?
The IT program is operated at both locations of VA Puget Sound Health Care System. At American Lake (Tacoma) IT services are located in Building 148, Vocational Services. In Seattle, IT services are located in Building 24.

Incentive Therapy
The Incentive Therapy (IT) program provides opportunities for patients eligible for VA Health Care to participate in therapeutic work opportunities at the Medical Center. The IT program helps program participants to establish goals and assist them in working toward reaching those goals. The IT program provides work opportunities to individuals that may not be ready to participate in competitive work at this time. The program allows IT participants to add structure to their day, to participate in a meaningful activity, provides an opportunity to interact and socialize with other people and enhances the opportunity to experience a sense of accomplishment.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Incentive Therapy program is to provide Veterans the opportunity to reach their highest potential through participation in therapeutic work.

What Makes the Incentive Therapy Program Work?
The Medical Center has a deep commitment to the Incentive Therapy program and recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for Veterans with special needs to participate in structured work activities. Each year the Medical Center sets aside funds to sponsor this very special program with the goal of helping Veterans to reach their highest potential.
Who Participates in the Incentive Therapy Program?
The Incentive Therapy program serves individuals who may not currently be able to participate in competitive employment. Regardless of the extent of the disability, the IT program strives to provide a wide variety of work opportunities for those eligible Veterans who are interested in making a work activity part of their life.

In order to participate in IT services, the perspective participant must be eligible for medical services through the VA. The following are additional requirements:
- You must have a consult from a health care provider -- Mental Health, ATC or Medical
- You must meet the criteria to have a physical or biological disability, neurological disability, or psychiatric disability.
- You must be medically and psychiatrically stable
- Must be currently following all recommendations of your care provider

Services Provided Under the Incentive Therapy Program
- Assistance in establishing work goals
- Assistance in establishing the steps to reach work goals
- The opportunity to participate in a therapeutic work program
- Ongoing supports while participating in the therapeutic work placement
- Ongoing feedback on your progress towards your goals
- Connection with services within the medical center and in the community

Want to Learn More?
If you would like to learn more about the Incentive Therapy program you may contact Community Reintegration Services at 253-583-1800.

Services are available both in Seattle and American Lake.

How to Get Started in IT
If you are interested in participating in a program of therapeutic work, talk with a member of your treatment team (case manager, social worker, physician, etc.). They can send a consult for services to Vocational Services at either Seattle VAMC or American Lake VAMC. You will then be contacted by an IT staff member to schedule a face to face appointment. During this appointment you will have the opportunity to discuss therapeutic work assignment options and how IT participation might help you in meeting our personal goals.

Community Reintegration Services
VA Puget sound Health Care System
American Lake Division
9600 Veterans Drive Building 148
Tacoma, WA 98493
253-583-1800