

Case Scenario - Karen

Karen is a 29-year old Veteran who served two tours in Iraq before receiving an honorable discharge. She experienced trauma during her military service, which she doesn't like to talk about, but she mentions having nightmares and extreme fear of leaving the house. She has lost three jobs in the past year due to absenteeism. She currently receives VA Compensation at 20% (\$276.84/month) and recently received a housing voucher for permanent supportive housing. With help from her caseworker, she will begin receiving Supplemental Security Income next month (which will be \$514.16 after reductions due to VA benefits), based on her difficulties in maintaining work due to severe anxiety and PTSD. Last month, Karen began working at a non-profit health clinic for nine hours per week at \$8/hour, filing records after hours, but isn't sure how that will affect her benefits. When you talk with Karen about her employment goals, she really wants to become a medical transcriptionist, as she loves the medical field and could work from home with flexible hours, making up to \$15/hour. However, the course and materials for that will be \$2000. She's not sure how she'll ever be able to achieve her goals and is asking for your help in making a plan.

Case Scenario - Sierra

Sierra is a 42-year-old OIF veteran. Her Guard unit was deployed to Iraq twice during her period of service. During her second deployment the convoy she was in was attacked. No one was killed but she reports that fighting took place for several hours before they could finally leave and she saw many of her friends severely injured. She feels very angry about her whole period of service. She will often say that when she signed up for the Guard she didn't think she'd ever see combat. She doesn't want anything to do with the VA. When Sierra got back from her second deployment she got a good job as a warehouse expeditor which was very similar to what she did overseas. She worked at the warehouse for 6 years and was promoted to a shift manager, she was married and had a little boy during her time at the warehouse. Sierra reported that 7 months ago her husband took their son and went back to Washington state where he was from. Sierra said that her husband claimed he left because she was neglecting her family, but she thinks he had found someone online back home. Sierra didn't know how to fight for custody and still hasn't been able to reunite with her son in any consistent way. She began to drink after her husband left. There was an incident at the warehouse and Sierra was put on disciplinary leave for a couple of days but she never returned to work after. One month ago, Sierra's home, which was in her name, was foreclosed on and she ended up in the shelter.

Case Scenario - Ryan

Ryan - Ryan is a 37-year-old Veteran of the Coast Guard. Ryan has been homeless since 2012. Ryan was recently discharged from a GPD program for failure to comply with program rules when he failed a drug screening. This is his second attempt at GPD. Ryan has significant substance abuse issues and is restricted from accessing multiple services in the community. Ryan walks with a cane and reports that during his service he hurt his back severely. He also reports that it was because of his back pain that he began to use opioids. Ryan did receive an honorable discharge from the Coast Guard and he has started a compensation claim. Unfortunately, he has never been in one place long enough to see the claim through. Ryan has a difficult time making appointment and often when he does come, he is obviously under the influence. Ryan says he hopes to be employed some day and talks a lot about going back to school. However, he hasn't worked since he was discharged from the service and admits that he doesn't have a clue about what he'd go to school for.

Case Scenario - Anthony

Anthony – Anthony is a 41-year-old Army Veteran. Anthony has a service dog and is relatively new to the area. He came to town as a welding inspector for a company that was doing some heavy industrial work on a bridge project. For the last 3 months, Anthony had been living in a hotel that his company provided. Unfortunately, the company he was working for lost the bid for the second phase of construction and there was no longer any work for Anthony. His company offered him work in Alaska, but he didn't want to go. Anthony did find part time work at a convenience store making \$11.00/hour. For the last 3 weeks he has been staying in his car at a campground with his service dog and chewing through the little bit of savings he has. An outreach worker found Anthony at a laundromat doing laundry. The outreach worker is confused by Anthony; he has very employable skills and seems to have things put together, but seems to be ambivalent to improving his income and looking for a better job. When employment is brought up Anthony just says he's been looking; however, he says he is overqualified for all the positions he's seeing locally. The campground owner has been letting Anthony stay for free as long as he helps out with some of the ground maintenance, but that may not last forever. Anthony has been working with a local SSVF provider and they found an apartment. SSVF paid a security deposit and Anthony paid the first month's rent with all he had left in savings. Anthony will not be able to pay for the apartment with his \$11.00/hour job.