

Resources

INCOME

SOAR (SSI/SSDI)

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Learn more about SOAR <https://soarworks.prainc.com/>.

SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. To learn more about SNAP eligibility visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility>.

VA Benefits (compensation and pension)

eBenefits is a joint VA/DoD web that provides service members, veterans and eligible dependents the ability to manage their VA and DoD benefits, claims, and military documents online. <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

Income and Benefits Calculator

This new tool for beneficiaries of Social Security Administration's (SSA's) disability benefits, helps demonstrate how income from employment and/or VA disability benefits will affect Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). To download the calculator and watch a short walkthrough of how to use it visit: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/income-benefitscalculator>

TANF

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program. You can find information by state at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/help>

Workers Compensation

Workers' compensation is a state-regulated insurance system that pays medical bills and some lost wages to employees who are injured on the job, or who have work-related diseases or illnesses. Employees get benefits based on the type and

severity of their injuries and/or illnesses. To find your state worker's compensation board visit: <https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/about.htm>

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation Programs OWCP administers four major programs including: the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, the Federal Employees' Compensation Program, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Program and the Black Lung Benefits Program. More information about these programs is available at <http://www.dol.gov/owcp> (DFEC) <https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/about.htm>

General Assistance (if available in the state)

State General Assistance programs are a safety net program of last resort to individuals who are very poor and do not qualify for other assistance. These programs are generally for individuals without children who are elderly. The specific guidelines vary by state.

EMPLOYMENT

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA is legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system (see American Job Center) and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers. Learn more about WIOA at <https://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/Overview.cfm>. A number of programs are authorized or amended under WIOA including:

- *Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs*

The Adult and Dislocated Worker Program, is designed to provide quality employment and training services to assist eligible individuals in finding and qualifying for meaningful employment, and to help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in business. Learn more about the program at https://www.doleta.gov/programs/general_info.cfm.

- *Youth Program*

WIOA outlines an integrated service-delivery system to help states and local areas leverage other Federal, State, Local, and philanthropic resources to support youth. WIOA places increased emphasis on supporting out-of-school youth and work experience including summer employment, pre-apprenticeship, and on-the-job training.

- *Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Services (ES)*

The Wagner-Peyser Act established a nationwide system of public employment offices known as the Employment Service which later became known as One

Stops (today's AJC) emphasizing access to multiple services under one roof. ES services include job search assistance, job referral, and placement as well as recruitment work with employers and have no eligibility requirements.

- *Job Corps*

Job Corps is a no-cost education and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16-24 improve the quality of their lives by empowering them to get great jobs and become independent. To learn more visit www.jobcorps.gov.

American Job Center (AJC)

Located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the network of nearly 2,500 AJCs provide a variety of employment-related services. To learn more about AJC services or find your local AJC visit www.careeronestop.org. There are a number of programs and services that can be accessed through the AJC including:

- *Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG)*

Funded by the Department of Labor, the JVSG program provides federal funding to State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) to hire staff dedicated to serving veterans at some of the AJCs. JSVG funds Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists who provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) who work with employers. To learn more about JVSG visit <https://www.dol.gov/vets/grants/state/jvsg.htm>.

- *Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)*

VR is a U.S. Department of Education funded program administered at the state level and integrated into the statewide workforce development system. It is designed to assist people whose disabilities, physical or mental, are significant barriers to employment. More information about VT is available at <https://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/WorkersWithDisabilities/vocational-rehabilitation.aspx>

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)

HVRP is an employment focused competitive grant program of the Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS). The purpose of the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) is to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. Visit <https://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/hvrp/> to learn more.

Registered Apprenticeship

Registered apprenticeships are high-quality, work-based learning, and post-secondary, earn-and-learn models that meet national standards for registration with the U.S. Department of Labor (or federally-recognized State Apprenticeship Agencies). To learn more visit <https://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/>.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

SCSEP is a community service and work-based job training program for unemployed, low income Americans aged 55 or older. Enrollment priority is given to veterans and qualified spouses (first priority), as well as to individuals who are over 65, have a disability, are experiencing homelessness or meet other characteristics. SCSEP grantees include state agencies and national non-profit organizations who administer the program. To find the local SCSEP grantee in your area visit <http://www.servicelocator.org/olderworkers>.

Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)

As part of efforts to end homelessness among Veterans, in fiscal year (FY) 2014, VA enhanced employment services for Veterans through implementation of Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES).

HVCES is staffed by Vocational Development Specialists who function as Community Employment Coordinators (CEC) and Employment Specialists.

HVCES staff ensure that a range of employment services are accessible to Veterans who have experienced homelessness and may need individualized support to overcome barriers preventing them from returning to work, such as; a poor work history; lack of transportation and appropriate clothing; history of justice involvement; and co-occurring substance use and/or mental health issues. HVCES staff are embedded in homeless programs within the medical centers and are a bridge to employment opportunities and resources in the local community. There are no eligibility requirements for Veterans to receive assistance from HVCES other than participation in a VHA homeless program. To find your local CEC visit <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/cec-contacts.asp>.

Ticket to Work

Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary program that can help Social Security beneficiaries go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career, and become financially independent, all while they keep their Medicare or Medicaid. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program. Learn more at <https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/>

Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. Visit www.askjan.org to learn more.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services (VR&E)

Administered by the VA VR&E, connects veterans with service-connected disabilities to services that help them prepare for, obtain, and maintain meaningful employment and independence. In order to participate in VR&E, a veteran must meet the standards for eligibility and entitlement. For more information about VR&E visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/>.

Unemployment Benefits

The U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs provide unemployment benefits to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own, and meet certain other eligibility requirements. To learn more about the various programs, including eligibility requirements, visit:

<https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/unemployment-insurance>

- *State Unemployment Insurance*

The most common of the programs, eligibility and requirements vary by state:

<https://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/unemploymentbenefits/unemployment-benefits.aspx>

Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

IPS is an evidence-based model of supported employment for people with serious mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia spectrum disorder, bipolar, depression). IPS helps people living with behavioral health conditions work at regular jobs of their choosing. Learn more about the eight principles of IPS as www.ipsworks.org.