

Vocational Rehabilitation:

VHA Voc. Rehab utilizes work-based treatment to facilitate and strengthen employment potential and provide vocational skill development. Veterans work with clinical staff to overcome barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment through:

- ◇ Individual vocational assessments
- ◇ Career exploration using testing, interest inventories, and labor market research
- ◇ Education on available resources and options
- ◇ Job Search Assistance
- ◇ Help with resumes, job applications and cover letters
- ◇ Interview skill building
- ◇ Mentoring and support in maintaining and keeping employment
- ◇ Educational counseling and application assistance
- ◇ Coordination of efforts between state and federal Vocational Rehabilitation services
- ◇ Referrals to Department of Labor One Stops, community employers & employment programs, etc.
- ◇ Benefits counseling in regards to employment
- ◇ Care coordination and engagement with mental health and other VA services
- ◇ Potential enrollment in paid work therapy
- ◇ Coordination of care with VA/ community providers to promote stabilization, self-advocacy, and increased independence.

Vocational Assistance:

Vocational Assistance is assessment, guidance, counseling, or other related services that may be offered to groups or individuals.

These services are short-term and are designed to enable Veterans to realize skills, resources, attitudes, and expectations needed to prepare for searching for employment, interviewing, and succeeding in employment (job readiness preparation) without the need for ongoing job search, job development or follow-up support.

Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Portland Health Care System
1601 E Fourth Plain Blvd., Bldg. 18
Vancouver WA 98661
Phone: (360)696-4061 Ext. 34130
Fax: 360-737-1408

For more information visit:

[www.portland.va.gov/services/
Vocational_Rehabilitation_Services.asp](http://www.portland.va.gov/services/Vocational_Rehabilitation_Services.asp)



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VHA

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

VA Portland
Health Care System



VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Program Eligibility

- ◇ Veteran must be eligible for VA services
- ◇ Veteran must be motivated to engage in competitive employment
- ◇ Medical clearance will be obtained prior to enrollment
- ◇ For SE program enrollment, Veteran should have a SMI diagnosis

Initial Access

Veterans may be referred to this program by a licensed provider or prescriber (Psychiatrist, APRN, PA), or accessed through the Walk-in Clinic.

- ◇ Due to COVID-19, Walk-ins may be virtual, or temporarily postponed.

Voc. Rehab Programs

Community Based Employment Services (CBES):

The Community Based Employment Services Program (CBES) assists Veterans in pursuing competitive employment in the community. The program aims to bolster Veterans' confidence and self-esteem by assisting with:

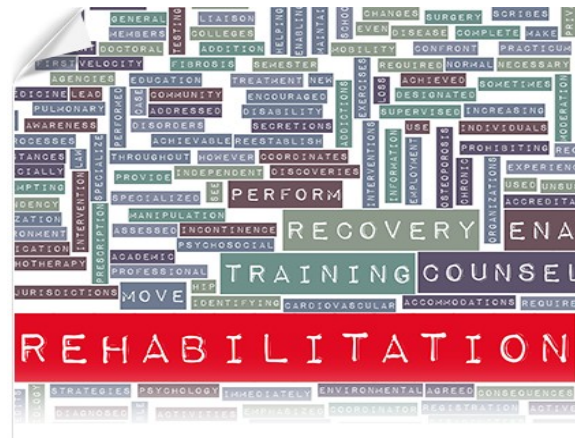
- ◇ Vocational assessments
- ◇ Career exploration & development of employment goals
- ◇ Job search support & job development
- ◇ Help with resumes, job applications and cover letters
- ◇ Interview skills building
- ◇ Referrals to VA and community supplementary services & resources

Supported Employment (SE):

SE is intended for Veterans with significant barriers to employment due to psychosis or other significant mental illnesses (SMI) such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective, bipolar, and diagnoses who due to these disabilities may not be able to function independently in employment without intensive, ongoing support services including:

- ◇ Ongoing vocational assessments
- ◇ Rapid/individualized job search
- ◇ Job development & job carving
- ◇ Hands-on job coaching
- ◇ Support in navigating reasonable accommodations & job retention
- ◇ Advocacy and mentoring
- ◇ Coordination of care with mental health & medical providers

Employment goals can be balanced with disability awards (Social Security, VA pension, VA compensation, etc.) and goals can be for part-time or full-time work.



Transitional Work (TW):

TW is a pre-employment vocational program that operates in VA medical centers (VAMC) and community employer sponsored sites. TW participants are matched to transitional work assignments for a time-limited basis.

Veterans are supervised by personnel of the sponsoring site, with similar job expectations experienced by non-TW workers. TW participants are not considered employees and receive no traditional employee benefits.

The expectation is that TW participants transition from the work assignment to competitive employment in the community.

TW is designed to help veterans readjust work routines and prepare for employment through:

- ◇ Experience in a positive work environment
- ◇ Improving work behaviors and skills
- ◇ Establishing references, and recent work experience

Each participant is assigned a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist (VRS) to support them in developing goals and a treatment plan towards employment, and continually be engaged in employment activities throughout the program.

Pay rates start at minimum wage to participants for the hours they engage in assigned work activities.

Participation averages between one to six months.