

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have feedback about our services,
please call or write:

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ACCREDITATION

The Vocational Rehabilitation program at the Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 1999.

For more information visit:

http://www.houston.va.gov/services/Vocational_Rehabilitation.asp.



Accessibility
Help and
Information

**Mental Health
Care Line**

**Vocational
Rehabilitation
Services**

WORK IS RECOVERY



**MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY
VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEDICAL CENTER**

**2002 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77030**

**Hours of Operation:
Monday –Friday
7:30am-4pm**



PROGRAM MISSION

Vocational Rehabilitation is committed to assisting Veterans with psychiatric or physical disabilities reach their highest level of vocational productivity.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Provide structured vocational evaluations.
- Improve pre-vocational skills including.
 - ✓ adhering to a work schedule,
 - ✓ working cooperatively with others,
 - ✓ accepting supervision,
 - ✓ doing quality work,
- Reduce psychiatric and physical symptoms.
- Increase relapse prevention skills.
- Improve self-esteem and enhance quality of life.
- Return veterans to competitive employment.
- Provide Employment + Support.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)

provides work restoration services to veterans in rehabilitation. CWT programs include: Enriched Transitional Work, Supported Employment, Community Based Employment Services, and Vocational Assistance.

CWT – Enriched Transitional Work (TW)

Transitional Work is a Compensated Work Therapy employment model that uses time – limited, wage paying work assignments that combine real work, skills development and supportive services to Veterans so they can transition to and are successful in retaining competitive employment. The Veteran does not need the intensive supports that are provided by CBES. TW placement is individually based on the Veteran’s need. Skillful matching of a Veterans ability and interest greatly enhances likelihood of successful competitive employment. TW has proven to be an excellent pre-employment screening opportunity for participating companies, and many Veterans have secured full time employment resulting from this relationship.

CWT- Supported Employment (SE)

The Supported Employment Program is a recovery-oriented model in the continuum of the Veterans Health Administrations (VHA) work restoration services. The mission of Supported Employment is to assist Veterans with severe mental illness (SMI- i.e., Schizophrenia, Bipolar, Psychosis, Polytrauma) to obtain and maintain competitive employment in the community within an integrated setting. Employment Specialists are trained to seek and locate real jobs within the community that match Veterans interest, skills, and abilities for work, even if only for a few hours weekly.

Community Based Employment Services (CBES)

Community Based Employment Services (CBES) provides individual flexible vocational support designed for each Veteran based on

their strengths, interests, and support needs. Veterans are offered community-based employment support that is tailored to each Veteran providing a level of support necessary to secure and maintain competitive employment in their local communities. Veterans are eligible for CBES if: (1) The Veteran is eligible for CWT services, (2) The Veterans immediate vocational goal is to work in a competitive, community based job (3) The Veteran has a history of sporadic employment, difficulty maintaining a job, difficulty initiating and following through on their job search, or is not able to obtain competitive work independently. Needs more assistance than Vocational Assistance or Transitional Work can provide. CBES will provide services to all qualified Mental Health Programs.

Vocational Assistance

including Job Readiness Training, and Job Placement referrals help to assist veterans in achieving a smooth transition to the community work force. Veterans that seek help may be unemployed, currently working but desiring a career change, or recently disabled and requiring retraining to return to the work force.

No veteran is billed for vocational rehabilitation services.

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

- Veteran eligible for MED VAMC healthcare.
- Referral from a VA provider in a psychiatric or medical rehabilitation program only.
- Involvement with the Substance Dependence Treatment Program for any veteran with substance misuse.
- Motivation and ability to work.