

## Vocational Services

Vocational programs are based on a recovery-oriented model and offer a continuum of therapeutic and skill development services. The core philosophy of these programs which include Vocational Counseling, Transitional Work, and Supported Employment is that all persons with a disability can work at some level and that no one should be excluded from this opportunity. Therefore, the scope of programs include vocational assessment, vocational counseling, skill development opportunities, assistance with job search, and individualized supports to assist with maintaining employment.

### Who Is Eligible And How Can I Enter The Programs?

Veterans receiving their care at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System are eligible. A Veteran must be referred for Vocational Services by a Provider via a consult for Vocational Counseling or Supported Employment.

If you would like more information, please contact Vocational Rehabilitation Services at 320-255-6313, or learn more at:

[www.cwt.va.gov](http://www.cwt.va.gov)

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health  
Administration

St. Cloud VA  
Health Care System

### Our Mission:

To “honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.”

We strive to provide Veterans with world-class benefits and services they have earned, and will adhere to the highest standards of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence.

**Thank you for your service.  
Now let us serve you.**

St. Cloud VA Health Care System  
4801 Veterans Drive  
St. Cloud, MN 56303-2099  
320-252-1670 | 800-247-1739

Created By: Vocational Rehabilitation  
Services for Community Partners and  
VA Employees

January 2018

[www.stcloud.va.gov](http://www.stcloud.va.gov)

[www.Facebook.com/StCloudVAHCS](https://www.Facebook.com/StCloudVAHCS)

## Vocational Services

**Helping Veterans Reach Career  
Goals!**



**HONORING SERVICE  
EMPOWERING  
HEALTH**

## Vocational Counseling (VC)

VC is a therapeutic intervention which seeks to restore and empower Veterans with disabilities (or other barriers) in improving their overall quality of life and well-being. VC provides Veterans with an array of individualized supports in preparing for, progressing towards, and reaching their stated vocational goals, regardless of where they are in the process. Counseling techniques are used to assist Veterans in making informed choices and decisions to maximize their vocational outcomes.

Vocation is often noted as a key factor in providing a way of building a sense of meaning and purpose in life and is widely recognized as an important element in the multi-faceted recovery process. VC services are available to every Veteran who is eligible for St. Cloud VA Health Care. VC has been noted as a best practice by the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

### Provides Assistance With:

- Identifying skills, abilities, strengths, and limitations
- Exploring and planning for employment, self-employment, training or education
- Disability adjustment
- Determining job accommodations
- Assignment to Transitional Work
- Coordination of services with community agencies
- Referral to other services to assist with recovery

## Transitional Work (TW)

TW is a six month therapy program that prepares Veterans who have employment barriers to obtain competitive employment. Veterans are referred from Vocational Counseling services. TW participants are screened by vocational staff and matched to a clinically appropriate assignment to address the barriers that have been identified. Assignment sites exist in various departments at the St. Cloud VA and with employers in the local community including Cash Wise Foods, Nahan and AmeriPride.

TW participants actively engage in job search while in the program with the support of vocational staff. They also attend Job Club which hosts local employers as guest speakers, provides education and information on various job skills, and is a place to network for job leads.

### Provides Assistance With:

- Filling out job applications
- Creating resumes
- Practicing interview skills
- Searching for jobs
- Problem-solving
- Labor market information
- Disability disclosure
- Benefits counseling
- Follow-along supports

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## Supported Employment (SE)

SE assists Veterans with obtaining permanent, part-time or full-time competitive employment with a focus on long-term follow-along support. SE services are provided to Veterans who meet certain diagnostic criteria. A team approach including the Veteran's Provider and entire treatment team is used to support Veterans receiving SE.

### Provides Individualized Assistance With:

- Figuring out what type of work Veterans would like to do
- Creating or updating resumes
- Talking with employers about job opportunities
- Developing an awareness of issues causing past employment problems and offering strategies to assist in preventing future problems
- Benefits counseling

### Once Employed, Assistance May Include:

- Starting a job including job coaching assistance, interacting with co-workers/supervisors, accepting direction, problem solving, etc.
- Identifying and building on strengths
- Supporting Veterans to keep their jobs by meeting regularly
- Identifying and developing natural supports at work and home
- Coordinating with employers to resolve any issues that may arise on the job