

JVSG Veteran Program

# Standard Operating Procedure

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

May 2023

OVERVIEW OF MANUAL	3
PART I: DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM (DVOP)	5
1.1 DVOP OUTREACH	5
1.1.1 Why do we conduct outreach?	
1.1.2 Principles of Outreach	
1.1.3 DVOP Outreach Goals	
1.1.4 DVOP Outreach Life Cycle	
1.1.5 Target Populations	
1.1.6 DVOP Outreach Locations	
1.1.7 How to Target Veterans While Conducting Outreach	
1.1.7.1 The key word is "conversation."	
1.1.7.2 Follow-up is essential to outreach.	
1.1.8 Outreach Issues	
1.1.9 By Appointment Only	
1.1.10 Summary	
1.2 Working with Veterans—Eligibility	
1.3 DVOP Services	
1.3.1 Priority of Service	
1.3.1.1 Verifying Status	
1.3.1.2 "Veteran Hold" in SCWOS	
1.3.2 Veteran's Intake Process	
1.3.2.1 Job Ready vs. Not Job Ready	
1.3.3 Individualized Career Services	
1.3.3.1 100% DVOP Staff	
1.3.4 DVOP Case Management	. 15
1.3.4.1 Assessments	
1.3.4.1.1 How to Do a Veteran Program Objective Assessment	. 15
1.3.4.1.2 Objective Assessment Summary Example	
1.3.4.1.3 Objective Assessment Case Note Example	
1.3.5 Individual Employment Plan (IEP)	
1.3.5.1 Short-Term Goals	
1.3.5.2 Long-Term Goals	
1.3.5.3 IEP Tips	
1.3.5.5 Get the Veteran to "Buy-In"	
1.3.6 Service Referrals	
1.3.7 Follow-Up Expectations	
1.3.7.1 Primary Counselor Follow-Up	
1.3.7.2 Case Management Follow-Up	
1.3.7.3 Follow-Up Tips	. 36
1.3.8 Recording Veteran Services in SCWOS	
1.3.8.1 Case Manager Contact—Program Service vs. Follow-up Service	
1.4 Special Projects	. 37
1.5 USERRA	
1.6 VOCATIONAL READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (VR&E)	39
1.6.1 Employment Services	. 39
1.6.1.1 Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE) Program	. 40
1 6 1 2 Suitable Employment	⊿1

1.6.2	Labor Market Information	41
1.7 Ho	MELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAM (HVRP)	
PART II: LO	CAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE (LVER) PROGRAM	43
2.1 LVI	ER Outreach	43
2.1.1	Why do we conduct outreach?	43
2.1.2	Principles of Outreach	43
2.1.3	LVER Outreach Goals	44
2.1.4	LVER Outreach Life Cycle	44
2.1.5	Target Populations	44
2.1.6	How to Target Employers While Conducting Outreach	45
2.1.6.		
2.1.6.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
2.1.7	Outreach Issues	
2.1.8	By Appointment Only	
2.1.9	Summary	
	ER Priorities	
2.2.1	100% LVER Staff	46
PART III: OF	PERATIONS & OVERSIGHT	47
3.1 DV	OP/LVER REGIONAL MANAGER MEETINGS	47
3.2 Qu	ARTERLY REPORTS	47
3.2.1	DVOP's Role	47
3.2.2	LVER's Role	47
3.2.3	Regional Manager's Role	48
3.2.4	Area Director's Role	48
3.3 Suc	CCESS STORIES	48
3.3.1	Writing the success story:	48
3.4 CH	ANGE REQUESTS	49
PART IV: RE	ESOURCES	50
4.1 To	PICS	50
	DERAL AND STATE PROGRAM GUIDANCE	
	PLOYMENT SERVICES MANUAL	
	WOS STAFF ONLINE RESOURCES	
	RPEVIATIONS	51
FARI V'AK	DREVIA LIUUN	71

# **OVERVIEW OF MANUAL**

# South Carolina's Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) Program

South Carolina's JVSG program is funded by a grant from the US Department of Labor (DOL) Veteran's Employment and Training Services (VETS). The grant funds the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) positions to assist veterans. Program operatives are referred to as "DVOPs" and "LVERs" (pronounced "lee-vers"). DVOPs work with veterans who have a Significant Barrier(s) to Employment (SBE) and provide individualized career services to overcome or mitigate those barriers, so veterans are "job search ready." LVERs work with employers and DVOPs to place job-ready veterans into employment.

# Eligible Veteran, Spouse, & Other Useful Terms (38 U.S.C. §§ 4211, 4215)

An eligible veteran meets one of the following definitions:

- 1. The individual served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released therefrom with an other than dishonorable discharge.
- 2. The individual was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.
- 3. The individual, as a member of a reserve component under an order to active duty pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §§ 12301(a), (d), (g), 12302, or 12304, served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized and was discharged or released from such duty with other than a dishonorable discharge.
- 4. The individual was discharged or released from active duty by reason of a sole survivorship discharge as that term is defined in <a href="10">10 U.S.C. § 1174(i)</a>.

An eligible spouse meets one of the following definitions:

- 1. The individual is the spouse of any veteran who died of a service-connected disability.
- 2. The individual is the spouse of any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under 38 U.S.C. § 4215, is listed, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. § 556 and regulations issued thereunder, by the Secretary concerned in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:
  - a. Missing in action
  - b. Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force

- c. Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power
- 3. The individual is the spouse of any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability.
- 4. The individual is the spouse of any veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

#### Integration into the Workforce System

DVOPs and LVERs are fully integrated into the workforce system and serve on the respective teams that are appropriate for their roles. Ideally, DVOPs will make appropriate referrals to partner agencies to address the specific needs of veterans with SBEs, and LVERs will serve on business services teams.

#### SC Works Online Services (SCWOS)

SCWOS is SC's comprehensive job search tool that helps employers and job seekers connect through the Internet. Employers and job seekers can register online, browse applicants or job openings, and request matches against job orders and work registrations. SCWOS is also the case management system for the Adult, Dislocated Worker (DW), and Youth programs, as well as the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program and Wagner-Peyser Programs. All SCWOS features are free and include the following:

- Online self-registration
- Resume creation
- Online job posting and matching
- Ability to browse jobs or applicants and contact matches for both
- Access to current labor market information (LMI)
- Access to career tools and training resources
- Access to job openings collected, or "spidered," from other websites

#### How to Use This Manual:

This manual is meant as a training manual for new hires and as a reference tool for experienced DVOPs and LVERs. Keep an eye out for the green check mark throughout for useful Pro Tips. This manual is current as of the date of issue noted on the cover. Staff are responsible for staying up to date with program guidance between manual revisions. This guide should be used in conjunction with the current Employment Services Manual.

# PART I: DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM (DVOP)

#### 1.1 DVOP OUTREACH

In the JVSG program, "outreach" is defined as a two-way communication between Employment Services (ES) and the stakeholder. Outreach establishes and fosters mutual understanding, promotes participation and involvement, and influences behaviors, attitudes, and actions. Outreach finds veterans who are not using any services provided by ES and informing and educating them about the services provided by South Carolina's workforce system.

#### 1.1.1 WHY DO WE CONDUCT OUTREACH?

- Develop a liaison between the agency and the community
- Improve community awareness
- Increase collaboration and communication with community members, stakeholders, and key partners
- Share resources and exchange ideas
- Increase program attendance
- Stimulate behavioral change

#### 1.1.2 Principles of Outreach

- Clearly identify the veterans that you are trying to reach.
- One size does not fit all—tailor your outreach strategy, message, and materials according to your target audience.
- Think from the customer's perspective and include information about your services that may be helpful.
- Enlist key community leaders to be your ambassadors.
- Outreach = Material + Personal Contact in multiple ways and at multiple times; build trust and become a familiar face.
- Be a conversationalist, not a preacher.
- Consider where you have done outreach and consider who is missing; track who
  is coming and adjust your strategy as needed.

#### 1.1.3 DVOP OUTREACH GOALS

Outreach goals will be determined by the Regional Manager based on the region's need, and include:

- Enhance community awareness
- Increase the visibility of the program
- Increase community support
- Engage new partners and stakeholders

#### 1.1.4 DVOP OUTREACH LIFE CYCLE

#### Planning

- Needs assessment (veterans and organizations)
- Goals and objectives (SBE)
- Stakeholder identification (Who is doing what?)
- Key message (DVOP, veterans w/SBEs, regular services)

#### **Development**

- Structure for Implementation
- Outreach Strategy Tools (flyers, pamphlets, organizations)

#### Execution

- Implementation (make it happen)
- Adjustments (flexibility)

#### **Evaluation**

- Process and outcome evaluation
- Results analysis

#### 1.1.5 TARGET POPULATIONS

- Special disabled veterans
- Disabled veterans
- Economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans
- Veterans who are homeless
- Veterans with other SBEs

#### 1.1.6 DVOP OUTREACH LOCATIONS

DVOPs conduct outreach at a variety of sites and with a variety of partner programs, including but not limited to:

- VA Vocational Rehabilitation and employment centers
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) grantees
- Department of Veterans Affairs (medical centers and vet centers)
- Homeless shelters
- Civic and services organizations (community and faith based)
- Community stand downs
- Military installations
- WIOA Title I program partners (Adult, DW, Youth)
- State Vocational Rehabilitation

DVOPs must make contact and follow-up regularly with National Guard and Reserve units in their area.

# 1.1.7 How to Target Veterans While Conducting Outreach

# 1.1.7.1 THE KEY WORD IS "CONVERSATION."

- Greeting
- Introduction
- Programs available
- Contact information
- Appreciation for the encounter

#### 1.1.7.2 FOLLOW-UP IS ESSENTIAL TO OUTREACH.

- Renew contact.
- Discuss any new programs.
- Review a couple of the programs that have already been discussed.
- Express appreciation for the encounter.

#### 1.1.8 OUTREACH ISSUES

- ODA (Out Driving Around)
- Same place, same time (library every Thursday)
- "Come see me." (This *never* gives a result.)
- Going somewhere during social hour (after normal working hours)

- Where not to go:
  - Hanging out at a fast-food restaurant waiting for vets
  - Places where you have set up a desk and have never found vets (or found very few)
- Emailing, phone calls, and conducting administrative duties are NOT outreach.

#### 1.1.9 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

- Make a plan.
- Make appointments with service organizations where vets might frequent, and then place the appointment on your calendar.
- Ensure the service organization is listed under service providers in SCWOS prior to going out to the organization. If the service provider is not in SCWOS, email your Regional Manager to have the organization added.

Do not place on your schedule that you are "out driving around looking for vets."

#### 1.1.10 **SUMMARY**

- Make a plan.
- Stick to the plan.
- If the plan begins to fail, be ready to "adjust fire."
- Find the right places to search for veterans.
- Record everything in SCWOS, including case notes.
- Have fun.
- Connect with the intention of helping others.
- Relax. Focus on what you can bring to the party or offer in the form of contacts, knowledge, or resources.

# 1.2 WORKING WITH VETERANS—ELIGIBILITY

Veterans who do not fall into one of the categories served by DVOP specialists are eligible to be served by non-JVSG SC Works staff on a priority basis.

DVOPs only work with veterans or eligible spouses with a Significant Barrier to Employment (SBE) as outlined in VPLs 03-14, including Changes 1 and 2, and 03-19. See also State Instruction 13-05, Change 3.

Eligible veterans and spouses defined as having a SBE include:

- A special disabled or disabled veteran, as those terms are defined in <u>38 U.S.C.</u>
   § 4211(1)(3), are those who are either:
  - Entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
  - Were discharged or released from active duty because of a serviceconnected disability
- A homeless person, as defined in Sections 103(a) and (b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11302(a) and (b)), as amended, to include domestic violence and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions affecting permanent residence
- A recently-separated service member, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 4211(6), who has been unemployed for 27 or more weeks in the previous 12 months
- An offender, as defined by the <u>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)</u>
   § 3(38), who is currently incarcerated or who has been released from incarceration
- A veteran lacking a high school diploma or equivalent certificate
- A low-income individual (as defined by WIOA § 3(36))

Additional veteran populations identified by DOL as eligible for DVOP services include:

- **Veterans aged 18-24**—veterans who may possess limited civilian work history which can make transitioning to the civilian labor force difficult, and thus may benefit from individualized career services provided by a DVOP specialist.
- Vietnam-era Veterans—eligible veterans who served any part of their active military, naval, or air service during the Vietnam era. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Veterans Affairs data indicate that there are still a sizable number of Vietnam-era Veterans in the workforce, and many face difficulty in finding and maintaining employment. The Vietnam-era falls within the following timeframes:
  - The period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period

- The period beginning on August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7, 1975, in all other cases
- Eligible Transitioning Service Members, Spouses, and Family Caregivers—in annual appropriation bills since the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, Congress has authorized the JVSG program to support individualized career services to:
  - Transitioning members of the Armed Forces who have been identified as in need of individualized career services on the DD-2958, "Service Member Career Readiness Standards/Individual Transition Plan" (TEN 10-14), signed by the service member's commanding officer, documenting that the service member has not met Career Readiness standards

SERVICE MEMBER CAREER READINESS STANDARDS/INDIVIDUAL TRANSITION PLAN CHECKLIST							
	PRIVACY ACT STA	TEMENT					
AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 1142, Pre-separation Counseling Pre-separation Counseling for Military Personnel; and E.O.			ersonnel; DoD Instr	uction '	1332.3	6,	
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): To document achievement of			e member's desired	d emplo	yment.		
education, technical training, and/or entrepreneurial object							
ROUTINE USE(S): The DoD "Blanket Routine Uses" foun							
DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, if the requested informember has met the Career Readiness Standards.	mation is not provided, it i	may not be possible for a Command	ler or designee to v	erify th	at a Se	rvice	
member has met the Career Readiness Standards.							
SECTION	ON I - SERVICE MEMI	BER INFORMATION					
1. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	2. GRADE (Select one)	3. DoD ID NUMBER	4. TRANSITION	DATE (	(YYYYI	MMDD)	
	•						
5. SERVICE (Select one from each category)	5. SERVICE (Select one from each category) 6. UNIT						
· ·							
SECTION II - COMMON CAREER READINESS STANDARDS (X one) YES NO N/A						N/A	
7. Completed the DoD Standardized Individual Trans	tion Plan	·	•				

- Members of the Armed Forces who are wounded, ill, or injured and receiving treatment in military treatment facilities (MTFs) or warrior transition units (WTUs)
- The spouses or other family caregivers of such wounded, ill, or injured members
  - The term "caregiver" with respect to an eligible veteran means an individual who provides personal care services to the veteran.
  - The term "family caregiver" with respect to an eligible veteran means a family member who is a caregiver of the veteran.
  - The term "family member" with respect to an eligible veteran means an individual who (a) is a member of the family of the veteran, including parent, spouse, child, step-family member, and extended family member; or (b) lives with, but is not a member of the family of the veteran.

# 1.3 DVOP SERVICES

#### 1.3.1 PRIORITY OF SERVICE

The Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002 (JVA) affords priority of service to covered persons (i.e., veterans and eligible spouses) over non-covered pe\*\*rsons for the receipt of employment, training, and placement services provided under new or existing job training programs funded, in whole or in part, by DOL. For example:

- The covered person receives access to the service or resource earlier in time than the non-covered person.
- If the service or resource is limited, the covered person receives access to the service or resource before the non-covered person.

All workforce staff must ensure that Priority of Service is carried out and report all issues to their chain of command. For further information, see <a href="State Instruction 08-06">State Instruction 08-06</a>: Priority of Service for Veterans and Spouses.

To be eligible for priority of service, the individual must meet one of the following definitions as a Covered Person:

Veteran—a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

Eligible Spouse—The spouse of any of the following individuals:

- Veteran who died of any of a service-connected disability
- Veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability
- Veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence
- Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under this section, is listed, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. § 556 and regulations issued by the Secretary concerned, in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:
  - Missing in action
  - Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force
  - Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power

#### 1.3.1.1 VERIFYING STATUS

Veterans or eligible spouses are not required to provide proof of veteran status at the time of program entry beyond self-attestation, unless the individual who self-identifies as a veteran or eligible spouse is immediately undergoing eligibility determination and

registering or enrolling in a program, AND the applicable federal program rules require verification of veteran or eligible spouse status at that time.

However, even in those instances where immediate enrollment is occurring, staff should enroll and provide immediate priority to the veteran or eligible spouse, and then allow the individual to follow-up later with any required verification of their status. The commitment of program staff effort does not require verification of status by a veteran or eligible spouse. For programs or services that cannot rely on self-attestation (e.g., classroom training), verification only needs to occur at the point at which a decision is made to commit outside resources to one individual over another.

Acceptable verification documents, include but are not limited to the following:

- DD 214
- Official notice issue by the VA that establishes entitlement to a disability rating or award of compensation to a qualified dependent
- Official notice issued by the US Department of Defense (DOD) documenting the eligibility of an individual, based on the missing or detained status of that individual's active-duty spouse

#### 1.3.1.2 "VETERAN HOLD" IN SCWOS

All job orders are placed in a "Veteran Hold" status the day of the job order posting to allow veterans and other covered persons the exclusive opportunity to view and receive a referral prior to non-veterans. In SCWOS, Veteran Holds are released during overnight processing on Monday - Friday. Overnight processing does not run on national holidays.

**Example:** A job order is entered Wednesday at 6:00AM. The "Veteran Hold" will be lifted at 12:01AM Friday during overnight processing. The "Veteran Hold" was in place for at least 24 hours and over the course of one full business day.

SC Works staff does not have the capability of manually lifting the "Veteran Hold" status. Qualified job candidates must be referred in the following order:

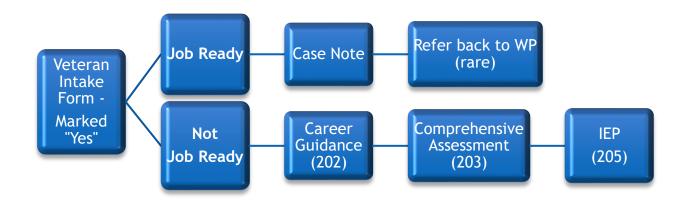
- 1. Special disabled veterans
- 2. Other disabled veterans
- 3. Other eligible veterans in accordance with priorities determined by DOL
- 4. Certain spouses and other covered persons
- 5. Non-veterans

#### 1.3.2 VETERAN'S INTAKE PROCESS

Intake staff must ensure all veterans complete the <u>Veterans' Services Intake Form</u> to determine eligibility for priority of services provided by the DVOP. An eligible veteran, spouse, or family caregiver must be immediately referred to a DVOP specialist. If a DVOP specialist is not available, referrals to a DEW Workforce Specialist or Consultant must be made. Veterans and eligible spouses who are not eligible under the list above are to be referred

The Veterans'
Services Intake Form
should be completed
by intake staff before
a veteran is sent to a
DVOP specialist.

to appropriate non-JVSG SC Works staff members to receive basic, career, and/or training services on a priority basis.



#### 1.3.2.1 JOB READY VS. NOT JOB READY

#### Veterans are either:

Job Ready  Can start a job today!  Complete resume  No employment barriers  No need for interview assistance	DVOP enters a case note and refers them back to Wagner-Peyser—should have very few of these.
Not Job Ready The individual needs employment services assistance.	> DVOP completes a 202, Comprehensive Assessment (203), and an IEP (205) on the veteran.

#### 1.3.3 INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER SERVICES

JVSG performance is based on services that are provided by DVOPs. It is critical to JVSG performance that the DVOP adhere to the following guidelines:

- DVOPs will not provide job searches, job referrals, or job-development services.
- Handing a veteran a brochure on creating a resume is *not* a "service" under the JVSG program.

The majority of services provided by DVOPs must be individualized career services. The individualized career services under the JVSG program are:

- Assessments
- Career Guidance
- DVOP Individualized Employment Plan (IEP)
- DVOP interview prep
- Referrals to WIOA services
- Referrals to other services
- Workshop—Career & Skills Assessment
- Workshop—Career Advancement and Enhancement
- Workshop—Educational and Personal Skills Upgrade

#### 1.3.3.1 100% DVOP STAFF

Under <u>38 U.S.C. § 4103A(a)</u>, a DVOP specialist provides individualized career services and facilitates placements to meet the employment needs of veterans and eligible spouses. DVOP specialists serve only those veterans and eligible spouses most in need of individualized career services. This better enables DVOP specialists to perform their primary responsibility of providing individualized career services to all of the people they serve. While DVOPs may provide some core services, these staff should devote the majority of their time to providing individualized career services.

#### 1.3.4 DVOP CASE MANAGEMENT

DVOPs are responsible for their caseloads and must make appropriate contacts!

Case management is the coordination of services on behalf of an individual who may have an open case in different settings such as health care, nursing, rehabilitation, social work, disability insurance, employment, and law.

The DVOP, in coordination with the veteran, will determine if the veteran or eligible spouse will be enrolled in case management and the DVOP will determine when to close the

Case Management enrollment. If the veteran or eligible spouse is enrolled in case management, the DVOP is responsible for all of the components outlined in this section.

DVOPs should attempt to enroll four veterans into case management each month.

#### 1.3.4.1 ASSESSMENTS

All veterans and eligible spouses who receive services from a DVOP will have an assessment entered in SCWOS.

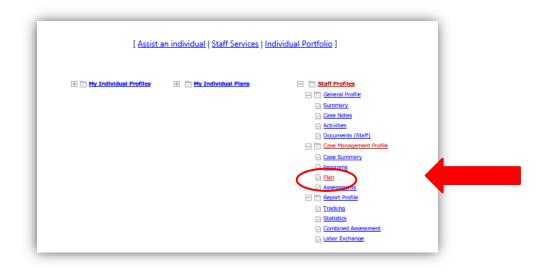
- Initial Assessment—An evaluation of a jobseeker's employment history, education, skills, and interests that results in the identification of employment goals, barriers to employment, and services needed to obtain goals.
- Objective Assessment—More comprehensive than the initial assessment, this
  assessment collects specific information regarding a customer's service needs,
  goals, interests, academic levels, abilities, aptitudes, and supportive-service
  needs. This assessment measures barriers and strengths.

#### 1.3.4.1.1 How to Do a Veteran Program Objective Assessment

- Use the spell check feature available in SCWOS.
- Do not include opinions; only include factual information.
- ➤ PII information, including disability information, can be disclosed because the Objective Assessments are locked down, allowing only staff with "need to know" to view this information.
- ➤ Enter Activity Code 202 only after completing the Objective Assessment Summary.

# **#1 - OBJECTIVE SUMMARY SECTION**

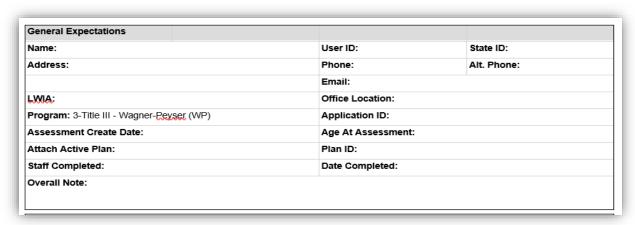
1. Under Plan, click on "Create Objective Assessment Summary."



Create Objective Assessment Summary

#### #2 - GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Verify this information is correct:



<sup>\*</sup>Example of this section when printed.

# **#3 - STAFF SECTION**

1. Enter in Date Completed—no more than 2 days from appointment.



2. Overall Note—At minimum, one of the statements listed below must be copied and pasted into this section.

If the veteran you are working with does not have any of the barriers listed below, <a href="STOP">STOP</a>—they do not qualify for the DVOP program and must be referred to a Workforce Consultant for further assistance.

**OVERALL NOTE OPTIONS:** (At minimum, 1 of the 16 options must be entered in the Overall Note field.)

#### Age:

- a. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—between the ages of 18 and 24.
- b. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—Vietnam-era veteran.

# Disability:

c. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—special disabled or disabled veteran who is entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. d. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—special disabled or disabled veteran who was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.

#### **Education:**

- e. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—lacking a high school diploma or equivalent certificate.
- f. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—low-income.

#### **Homeless or Domestic Violence:**

- g. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—homeless.
- h. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—homeless including domestic violence and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions affecting permanent residence.
- i. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—homeless and there are other dangerous or life-threatening conditions affecting permanent residence.

#### Income:

j. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—low income.

#### Incarcerated:

- k. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—offender who is currently incarcerated.
- l. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—released from incarceration.

#### Medical:

m. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—member of the US military and is currently being treated at a medical treatment facility (MTF).

#### Spouse:

n. Customer meets the qualifications of an eligible participant—spouse or family caregiver of a wounded, ill, or injured Service Member.

#### Transitioning:

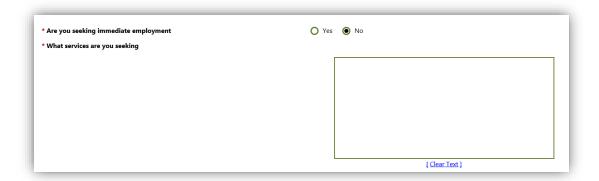
o. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—transitioning from active military service.

# **Unemployed:**

p. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—recently-separated service member who has been unemployed for 27 or more weeks in the previous 12 months.

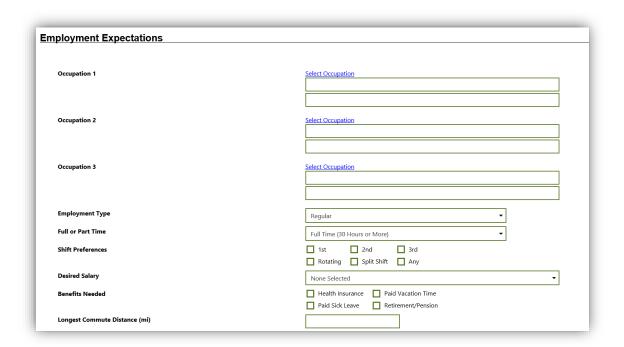
# #4 - EMPLOYMENT SECTION

Immediate Employment: This box must match what the customer has stated. Services: List the services the customer has requested.



#### **#5 - EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS**

Employment Expectations: **ENTIRE SECTION MUST BE COMPLETE**. The Occupations that you select will be used for your IEP.



# > Example:

IEP GOAL #1: To obtain a position as <occupation #1> IEP GOAL #2: To obtain training in <occupation #2>

Every box must be filled, even if it is not required:

Example—if they do not have a training preference:

Client does not have a training preference at this time.

Example—If they are considering training, but are not sure of which training:

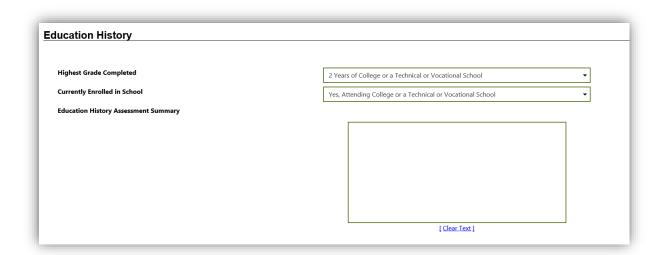


Customer is interested in training, but is unsure of which program at this time.

# #6 - EDUCATION HISTORY

Summarize the client's education experience in the Education History Assessment Summary box.

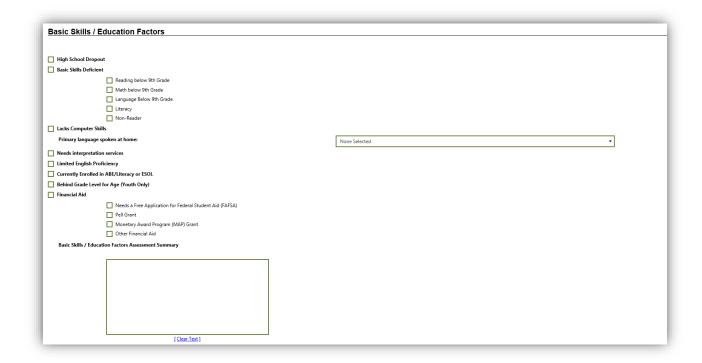
➤ Example—Client completed 2 years of computer science courses at Tri County Technical Colleges and 2 Allison online course about Office 365.



# **#7 - BASIC SKILLS AND EDUCATION FACTORS**

Basic Skills and Education Factors: Fill out the section **completely** including the summary.

> Example: Client dropped out of high school and does not have computer skills.



# #8 - DEGREES

Degrees: Add degrees.



# #9 - CERTIFICATES

Certificates: Add certificates.

# **#10 - SUMMARY OF SKILL ASSESSMENT**

Summary of Skill Assessment: When completing your IEP case note, there is a section for client's strengths. The skills from your case note can be entered into this section.



# #11 - EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Complete the employment history.



# **#12 - HOUSEHOLD INCOME SUMMARY**

Complete the Household & Income Summary.



#### **#13 - WORK READINESS**

In this section, you must state if this client is "work ready" OR "not work ready." Remember, no opinions, just FACTS.

**NOTE**: Work ready is the same as "job search ready" defined in <u>State Instruction 17-08</u>: Effective Use of Initial Assessment for Wagner-Peyser Customers.

"Work ready,"
"job search ready,"
and "job ready" are
used interchangeably
in SC's JVSG Program.

Example—Not Work Ready:

Client is not work ready at this time. Client will need to focus on IEP steps first before applying for employment.

Example—Work Ready:

Client is work ready at this time. Client will need assistance in applying for positions, matching to qualified positions, and matching to local hiring events.



# #14 - BARRIERS

For the JVSG program, the DVOP must <u>prove that the client meets the qualifications to be in the program</u>. Refer to the barriers you choose from the "Overall Notes" section. Check all barriers that the client has, and ensure the barrier entered in the "Overall Notes" section is selected. Remember that in the summary sections, do not include opinions or focus on family members—you are <u>only</u> focused on the client.

# Acceptable Examples:

Dependent Care Comments:

Client needs afterschool care options for dependents. Client needs morning care for family member.

Work Readiness Summary:

Client is available for employment from 8:00am - 3:00pm.

Client has limited transportation options and will need employment near public transportation.

Work Behavior Assessment Summary:

Client needs to attend an interview workshop and participate in a mock interview.

Client states he needs a position where he lifts less than 25 lbs.

Living Environment Assessment:

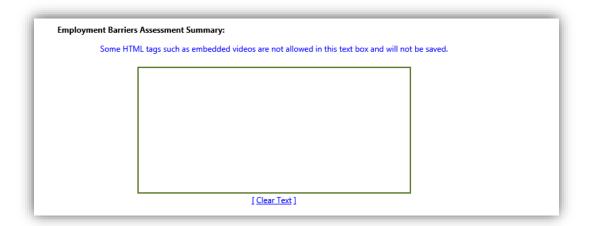
Client lives with family member, but situation is temporary. Client lives in [XYZ Homeless Shelter]. Shelter has a 90-day program, then the client must move out.

> Health and Behavior Observations: Only list organizations the veteran is currently working with. DO NOT LIST observations!

Employment Barriers Assessment Summary: (must follow this template)

- 1. Record this statement: Veteran qualifies for individualized career services as established by the initial and subsequent assessment.
- 2. Restate the barrier(s) entered in the "Overall Notes" section.
- 3. List referrals.

Example: Veteran qualifies for individualized career services as established by the initial and subsequent assessment. Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran—homeless. Referrals made to Vocational Rehabilitation, Commission for the Blind, and XYZ Homeless Shelter.



#### #15 - CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

Complete criminal background.



# #16 - TESTS

Complete tests section.



# #17 - REFERRALS



# Enter the 202 activity code $\underline{\mathsf{AFTER}}$ completing the Objective Assessment Summary.

# 1.3.4.1.2 OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY EXAMPLE

General Expectations					
Name: EXAMPLE	ne: EXAMPLE		State ID: EXAMPLE		
Address: EXAMPLE		Phone: EXAMPLE	Alt. Phone:		
EXAMPLE		Email: EXAMPLE			
LWIA: EXAMPLE		Office Location: EXAMPL	.E		
Program: 3-Title III - Wagne	er-Peyser (WP)	Application ID: EXAMPLI	E		
Assessment Create Date: 1	/8/2020	Age At Assessment: 59			
Attach Active Plan: No		Plan ID: 0			
Staff Completed: EXAMPLE		Date Completed: 1/8/2020			
Overall Note: Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran, veteran is a special disabled or disabled veteran who is entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.					
Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran, veteran is a recently-separated service member who has been unemployed for 27 or more weeks in the previous 12 months.					
EXAMPLE was under Case Management by DVOP in the past. He became employed but has since become unemployed again. He contacted DVOP requesting assistance again.					

Program Expectations	
Immediate Employment: Yes	<b>Services Sought:</b> Assistance obtaining sustainable employment in the material handler field. Interested in warehouse work such as forklift driver, puller, shipping/receiving

Employment Expectations						
Occupation 1: 53-7051.00 -	Industrial Truck and Tractor	Operators				
Occupation 2: 53-7062.00 -	Laborers and Freight, Stock	, and Material Movers, Hand				
Occupation 3:						
Employment Type:	Regular	Full or Part Time:	Full Time (30 Hours or More)			
Desired Salary:	\$14.50 hourly (approx. \$30,000 annually) or more	Maximum Commute (In Miles):	25			
Shift Preferences:	1st	Benefits Needed: Health Insurance, Paid Sick Leave, Paid Vacation Time, Retirement/Pension				
Desired Help in Career Plan	nning: No	Job Search Assistance Requ Referrals to Employers, Resum				
Seeking Training Services:	No	<b>Training Preferences:</b> EXAMP any training at this time.	LE is not interested in			
Seeking Post-Secondary Ed	ucation: No	Post-Secondary Preferences: N	Not Applicable			
Other Assistance Expected:	:N/A	1				

Education History								
Highest Grade Completed:	High School Diploma	Currently Enrolled in School:	No, Not Attending Any School					
Education History Assessment Summary: High School Diploma								

Basic Skills / Education Factors					
High School Dropout:	No	Basic Skills Deficient: No			

Limited English Proficiency:	No	Enrolled in ABE/Literacy or ESOL: No
Lacks Computer Skills:	No	Behind Grade Level for Age (Youth Only): No
Primary Language Spoken at	t Home:	Needs Interpretation Services: No

Financial Aid: No

**Basic Skills/Education Factors Summary:** EXAMPLE has a high school diploma. He is not interested in training at this time. He can use a computer, but he states he is not really good with one.

Education							
Degree	e Issuing Location Complet Institution		Completion C	Pate			
High School Diploma		Bessemer City High	NC US 6/1/19		6/1/1980	)	
Certificate/ License		Organization	1	Loc	ation	Issue Date	Expire Date
Forklift License Grammar Industrial			SC US		7/1/2005		

#### **Occupational Transferable Skills**

**Summary of Skill Assessment:** Example can operate stand up, sit down, and cherry picker forklifts. Knows inventory control, capable of making informed decisions. He can follow directions and safety minded at all times.

<b>Employment History</b>				
Employer	loh Titlo	Coloni	Dates	Duration
Employer	Job Title	Salary	Dates	Duration
Confluence Outdoor	Forklift Operator	\$9.50	11/1/2005 - 2/12/2006	3

Reason for leaving: Resigned / Quit

**Job Duties** Operate cranes, hoists, or other moving or lifting equipment. Inspect cargo areas for cleanliness or condition. Move materials, equipment, or supplies. Load shipments, belongings, or materials. Operate vehicles or material-moving equipment.

Fingerhut	Forklift Driver	\$9.56	9/12/1992 - 10/15/2005	157
Reason for leaving: Jo	b Ended			
_				
		ing or lifting equipment. Insp Load shipments, belongings		
material-moving equip	ment.			
Labor Ready	Construction Worker	\$8.00	6/15/2007 -	78
			12/15/2013	
Reason for leaving: Jo	b Ended	1		
positioning. Review b		s. Signal equipment operato to determine work requireeded.	· ·	
Job Impulse	Forklift Operator	\$14.00	4/17/2016 -	24
			5/13/2018	
Reason for leaving: Jo	b Ended			
Job Duties: Operate cr	ranes, hoists, or other movi	ing or lifting equipment. Insp	pect cargo areas for	r cleanliness or
condition. Move mater material-moving equip		. Load shipments, belongings	s, or materials. Oper	rate vehicles or
ProLogistix	Forklift Operator	\$14.00	5/27/2018 -	9
			2/26/2019	
Reason for leaving: La	yoff	I		
Job Duties: Operate cr	ranes, hoists, or other movi	ing or lifting equipment. Insp	pect cargo areas for	cleanliness or
		. Load shipments, belongings	s, or materials. Oper	rate vehicles or
material-moving equip	ment.			
Peak Workford	ce Material Handler	\$13.20	5/22/2019 -	5
Solutions LLC			11/4/2019	
Reason for leaving: Be	etter Job Opportunity		'	

**Job Duties:** Move materials, equipment, or supplies. Sort materials or objects for processing or transport. Load shipments, belongings, or materials. Mark materials or objects for identification. Receive information or instructions for performing work assignments.

Work Readiness		
Number of Children under 18: 0	Dependent Care: Yes: Not at This Time	
Dependent Care Comments: N/A		
Transportation: Yes	Driver's License: Has a Valid License	
Driver's License Endorsements: No		
Automobile: Owns Automobile		
Contacts: Telephone in Home	Work Attire: No	
Emergency Nutritional Needs: No		

**Work Readiness Summary:** Example has reliable transportation. No dependent care issues. He is interested in 1st shift positions. 8 hour shifts, states 12 hour shifts are too long. Has telephone, can operate a computer, has proper work clothes. Has a number of years' experience in working in a warehouse environment.

r Decision Making: No				
ration Completion: No				
Application Completion: No				
Need to Learn To Use Labor Market Information: No				
Interviewing Skills: No				

States he is comfortable doing any type of work in a warehouse setting.

Health & Behavioral Observations		
Health: Not at this time	Behavior: Not at this time	Substance Abuse: Not at this time
Health & Behavior Observations: Example uses the VA medical for any health issues.		

Living Environment

Housing: Not at this time

Home Life: Not at this time

Living Environment Assessment: Example shares his residence with 2 others. He has stated he hopes to get out on his own in the future. He is not at risk of becoming homeless and has the support of his roommates.

Economic Factors /
Financial Situation

Credit / Financial: Bankruptcy

Economic Factors Situation Assessment: See original Assessment in locked file in DVOP office.

Vocational / Occupational Factors

Obsolete Work Skills: No

License Expired / Revoked: No

Vocational / Occupational Factor Assessment: Forklift operating/warehouse skills are up to date.

Other Assistance Received

Public Assistance: Not at this time

Partner Services: Veterans, Wagner-Peyser

Other Assistance Assessment: Mr. Ray is working with DVOP in search of sustainable employment in the warehouse field.

Barriers To Employment		
Lacks Significant Work History: No	Sporadic or Limited Work History: No	
Restricted Commuting Distance: No	Restricted Work Schedule: Yes	
Unrealistic Wage Expectations: No	Legal Issues: No	
Single Parent: No	Displaced Homemaker: No	
Pregnant or Parenting Youth: No	Runaway Youth: No	
LWIA Designated Barrier: No	Other: No	
No Barriers to Employment/Work Readiness Issues: No		

#### **Employment Barriers Summary:**

Veteran qualifies for individualized career services as established by the initial and subsequent assessment.

Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran, veteran is a special disabled or disabled veteran who is entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Veteran meets the qualifications of an eligible veteran; veteran is a recently separated service member who has been unemployed for 27 or more weeks in the previous 12 months.

Referrals made to VA and Vocational Rehab.

#### 1.3.4.1.3 OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT CASE NOTE EXAMPLE

Meets the definition of an eligible veteran or spouse: Veteran (Veteran Services Intake Form: 1, 4, and 8)

#### Introduction of Client:

On 1/5/2020 at 10:00 AM, DVOP enrolled Veteran as a Participant into the Wagner-Peyser (WP) program for employment. Veteran is unemployed and in need of individualized career services as established by the initial and subsequent assessments. An IEP was completed.

#### Summary of Visit:

Veteran is an Army Veteran seeking immediate employment. Veteran is interested in an administrative position with a government agency or private business. Veteran stated she had applied to various jobs but to no avail. Veteran has a federal resume and expired resumes in SC Works that were deleted. Veteran has difficulty describing work in the military in terms civilians understand. Because of this, Veteran stated she is not strong in her interview skills.

#### **Clients Strengths:**

Veteran has a Bachelors' Degree in Criminal Justice and an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies. Veteran has reliable transportation.

#### **Barriers:**

Meets the criteria of the DVOP program- SBE veteran, unemployed for 27+ weeks in the previous 12 months. See Locked File.

#### **Current Resources:**

V/R&E, Dorn VAMC, Medicaid

#### **Job Ready Status:**

Veteran is not job ready at this time. Resume is not ready to be sent to employers, and she needs to practice interview skills. Should be job ready by next appointment.

#### **Next Steps:**

DVOP set up Veteran with resume workshop (1/7/2020) and a mock interview (1/7/2020) following the workshop. DVOP reviewed online resources for both resume and interview assistance: ONET, Holland, Skills Profiler, so Veteran can bring materials with them to the resume workshop. DVOP also provided some of the questions that will be covered during the mock interview.

#### Plan: Veteran Task List

- Attend Resume Workshop and bring resume to DVOP
- Complete Mock Interview

# **Next Appointment:**

- Mock Interview
- Upload resume into SC Works
- Setting up a virtual recruiter in SC Works
- Creating a LinkedIn page (www.linkedin.com)

#### 1.3.5 INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYMENT PLAN (IEP)

- Provides a plan for the veteran, as well as the DVOP
- Helps set expectations
- Builds self-esteem
- Provides a guide for effectively assisting the veteran
- Increases the number of placements and success stories
- Helps facilitate meaningful follow-up

Refer to ES Manual 2.2.3 for more requirements and guidance on IEP development.

#### 1.3.5.1 SHORT-TERM GOALS

Short-term goals are specific objectives the veteran must complete <u>before</u> being able to achieve the long-term goal(s). Short-term goals can be pursued immediately and can be finished in fewer than six months.

Short-term goals should concentrate on the following area(s):

- Barriers/obstacles—Remove obstacles in the way of obtaining the long-term goal.
- Experience—Gain as much experience in the intended field as possible.
- Education—Obtain further education.

- Professional reputation—create a strong, positive professional reputation, so that potential employers will want to give the jobseeker an opportunity.
- Networking/contacts—Career success does not hinge on *what* the jobseeker knows—*who* the jobseeker knows also matters a great deal.

#### 1.3.5.2 LONG-TERM GOALS

Long-term goals are something the veteran wants to do or accomplish in the future.

- Long-term career goals can take years to achieve and are the road to the future.
- These goals require time and planning. Use long-term goals to set short-term goals and to keep the veteran focused on making the present count for the sake of the future.

# > Examples:

```
"To obtain employment as a <<specific occupation>>."

"To obtain employment in the field of <<specific field of employment>>."

"To earn a <<specific degree or certification>>."

"To achieve a <<specific title>>."
```

Other considerations when establishing long-term goals:

- What resources would help the veteran reach his/her goals?
- Are there any organizations that will assist the veteran?
- Being flexible is important.
- Advance the goals as life changes.

# 1.3.5.3 **IEP** TIPS

- Well-written goals must be measurable—stated in a way that can be assessed, whether or not the goal was accomplished.
  - For example, a goal stating that "veteran will understand the importance of soft skills" is impossible to measure. Only by demonstrating through a concrete action, such as "veteran will initiate a greeting," can the veteran perform a goal that can be measured.
- Focus on taking the veteran through the steps that will lead to their long-term goal.
- DO NOT write goals <u>too far off</u> into the future. They may appear unattainable.
- Use SMART goals.

#### 1.3.5.4 SMART GOALS

Specific	Specific goals are very clear about what the veteran is expected to achieve.
Measurable	The veteran cannot know if they have achieved a goal or completed a step unless it is somehow measurable.
Attainable	The goal and specific steps should be realistically attainable within the period.
Relevant	Steps to be undertaken must be relevant to the stated goal.
Trackable	Use specific dates in order to measure success.

#### 1.3.5.5 GET THE VETERAN TO "BUY-IN"

The IEP is a **negotiated agreement** between the veteran and the DVOP detailing what the veteran will do for self-development and what the DVOP will do to assist that effort. **Staff must write the IEP with the full participation of the veteran**. The veteran must be part of developing the IEP to achieve "buy in" and give it full effort.

#### 1.3.6 SERVICE REFERRALS Internal Job Referrals Select this option to review interna All referrals for services, such as Vocational Rehabilitation or Goodwill, must be recorded in SCWOS **Employment History** by going to the Activities folder and selecting Staff Select this option to review the sel Referrals to Providers. Staff Referrals to Providers Select this option to create, edit ar Staff Profiles General Profile ☐ Summary **Tracking of Time** View recorded time spent with the Case Notes Activities Documents (Staff)

All service organizations that a DVOP is referring veterans to must be in SCWOS. If the service organization is not listed in SCWOS, send an email to the service provider and to your Regional Manager to have the organization added to SCWOS.

#### 1.3.7 FOLLOW-UP EXPECTATIONS

#### 1.3.7.1 Primary Counselor Follow-Up

If the client services were not extensive and the veteran is "job search ready," the resume will be passed to the LVER quickly.

- Follow up by phone or in person.
- Follow up with the client every two weeks at a minimum.
- Always record the follow-up activity in SCWOS, including case notes.

# 1.3.7.2 CASE MANAGEMENT FOLLOW-UP

If the client services were extensive, the client will require services to prepare for movement of resume to the LVER.

- Follow up in person—three documented attempts.
- Follow up every two weeks at a minimum.
- Document the follow-up activity in SCWOS.
  - Add the next appointment to the calendar.
  - Enter a case note, including next steps.
  - Update the IEP, as needed.

#### 1.3.7.3 FOLLOW-UP TIPS

- Follow up is ongoing and proactive—don't wait for failure.
- Track all important dates in the IEP, and check in with the veteran before deadlines to ensure the veteran is following through with commitments and goals identified in the IEP.
- An effective IEP process:
  - o Requires extensive follow up to make sure things are happening as planned
  - o Is not about playing "gotcha!" after the veteran failed to do something
- Remember that the IEP is about being successful in the program.

#### 1.3.8 RECORDING VETERAN SERVICES IN SCWOS

DVOPs record the services they provide in SCWOS by entering Activity Codes, and corresponding case notes, as appropriate, on the veteran's SCWOS account. This information is used to report performance to DOL and to develop reports for program management and planning. The "WP Activity Codes" used by the JVSG Program, and their definitions, can be found in SCWOS on Staff Online Resources.

#### 1.3.8.1 CASE MANAGER CONTACT—PROGRAM SERVICE VS. FOLLOW-UP SERVICE

The following activity codes are used to track contacts by the case manager based on whether the individual is still in case management or has exited the program:

Code	Activity Name	Definition	Requirements
243	Case Manager Contact: Program Service	The case manager contacts the customer, by phone or virtually, to follow-up on their case or review service options:  While Enrolled in Case Management  Examples: case management options, soon to exit reporting, placement information, etc.	<ul> <li>202, 203, and 205         must be completed         before entering this         code.</li> <li>Case note must         include the date,         time, and summary         of discussion.</li> <li>Case manager must         make actual contact         with the customer.</li> </ul>
246	Case Management: Follow-up Service	The case manager contacts customer, by phone or virtually, to follow-up on their status:  After Exit  Examples: placement information, follow-up, etc.	<ul> <li>202, 203, and 205         must be completed         before entering this         code.</li> <li>Case note must         include the date,         time, and summary         of discussion.</li> <li>Case manager must         make actual contact         with the customer.</li> </ul>

# 1.4 SPECIAL PROJECTS

DVOPs must organize and execute, or assist in the organization or execution of, one special project per year. The project must target and serve veterans with SBEs in some way. Project examples include:

- Resource Fairs
- Stand-Downs

# 1.5 USERRA

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) protects military service members and veterans from employment discrimination on the basis of their service and allows them to regain their civilian jobs following a period of uniformed service. USERRA protects service members' rights and benefits by clarifying the previous law, improving enforcement of the law, and making federal employees eligible to receive DOL claim assistance.

USERRA applies to members of the Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard, and other "Uniformed Services." The law ensures that service members are:

- Not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their military service
- Promptly re-employed in their civilian jobs upon return from duty
- Not discriminated against by employers because of past, present, or future military service

USERRA applies to both public and private employers.

If a DVOP is working with a veteran who indicates a USERRA issue, the DVOP must:

 Provide contact information for the DOL Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) South Carolina statewide office.

Robert Trahan, Director, VETS—South Carolina (803) 737-7649 trahan.robert@dol.gov

Brian Washington, Assistant Director, VETS—South Carolina (803) 737-7649
<a href="mailto:washington.brian.d@dol.gov">washington.brian.d@dol.gov</a>

• If possible, encourage the veteran to call VETS while you are with them, prior to filing a claim.

Do <u>NOT</u> refer any USERRA claims to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). ESGR does not administer the USERRA program.

# 1.6 VOCATIONAL READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (VR&E)

The VR&E Program is a joint collaboration between the US Veteran's Administration (VA) and DEW to assist veterans with disabilities who have completed or are about to complete their VR&E-funded education (Employment Services, section 1.6.1) or to assist those who have qualified for VR&E funds but have yet to start their educational program (Labor Market Information, section 1.6.2). These two distinct phases of the VR&E Program—Employment Services and Labor Market Information—have different processes that the DVOP must follow.

#### 1.6.1 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- 1. The Intensive Service Coordinator (ISC) will receive all referrals from the VR&E section of the VA for South Carolina, in addition to VA Counselors from other states making referrals on clients residing in SC.
- 2. If the veteran does not have a SCWOS account, the ISC must assist the veteran in creating an account.
- 3. The ISC will assign the veteran to the closest DVOP, based on the veterans' location, and the ISC will email the veteran's information to the appropriate DVOP. If the assigned DVOP knows of a closer DVOP, the DVOP can email the ISC and request transfer to a closer DVOP.
- 4. The ISC will copy the Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE) to ensure that the VR&E Form 201 is updated.
- 5. The DVOP must case note receipt of the referral from the VR&E program in SCWOS, as soon as the DVOP receives the VR&E referral from the ISC.
- 6. The DVOP must follow all applicable case management guidelines (see <u>section 1.3.4</u>), including conducting an objective assessment and creating an IEP in SCWOS when working with the VR&E veteran.
- 7. The DVOP must attempt to contact the veteran at least three times per month.
- 8. The DVOP must record all veteran contacts and attempted contacts in SCWOS, including case notes.
- 9. The DVOP can request the case be closed for the following reasons:
  - a. Financial disincentive to work—The veteran is receiving government benefits and would have those benefits reduced or terminated upon returning to work.
  - b. Satisfied with unsuitable employment—The veteran is satisfied with employment that is not considered suitable by VR&E.
  - c. Family responsibilities—The veteran has any domestic duty which limits the veteran's available time, resources, or capabilities.

- d. Medical reasons—Any medical situation where the individual can no longer participate in the program, e.g., a chronic problem that is preventing further work, a condition that may have worsened so that the individual is unemployable, a medical treatment or condition that interferes with job-search activities, transfer of the veteran to the <u>Independent Living Program</u> (a VR&E program to assist veterans in restoring daily-living activities), the veteran is entering inpatient substance-abuse or psychiatric treatment.
- e. Not satisfied with services—The veteran has expressed dissatisfaction with the services provided under the VR&E Program.
- f. Employment—The veteran has entered and maintained suitable employment. When requesting closure due to employment, the DVOP must report the following:
  - i. Employer
  - ii. Job Title
  - iii. Hourly Wage
  - iv. Employment Start Date
- g. School/continuing education—The veteran is involved in training and/or education services.
- h. Moved out of state—The veteran moved to another state.
- i. Other:
  - i. Job search ready status for the maximum 18 months
  - ii. Incarcerated
  - iii. Self-employed
  - iv. Returned to active duty
  - v. Death
- j. Unable to locate veteran/veteran unresponsive—The DVOP is unable to locate the veteran, and all attempts to communicate have been unsuccessful. The DVOP must have attempted at least three documented contacts per month for a maximum of two months, using various ways of contacting the veteran, before requesting case closure.

# 1.6.1.1 NON-PAID WORK EXPERIENCE (NPWE) PROGRAM

Eligible veterans and service members actively participating in the VR&E Program have the opportunity to obtain training and practical job experience at the same time through NPWEs.

This program is ideal for individuals with:

- Clearly established career goals
- Ability to learn easily in a hands-on environment
- Difficulty obtaining work due to lack of work experience

NPWE programs may only be established by federal, state, or local government agencies. Participating employers may hire the veteran or service member at any point.

#### 1.6.1.2 SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT

The VR&E Program defines suitable employment as employment that does not aggravate the veteran or service member's disabilities and is stable and consistent with his or her patterns of abilities, aptitudes, and interests.

#### 1.6.2 LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

- 1. The ISC will receive all referrals from the VR&E section of the VA for South Carolina.
- 2. If the veteran does not have a SCWOS account, the ISC must assist the veteran in creating an account.
- 3. The ISC will assign the veteran to the closest DVOP, based on the veterans' location, and the ISC will email the veteran's information to the appropriate DVOP. If the assigned DVOP knows of a closer DVOP, the DVOP can email the ISC and request transfer to a closer DVOP.
- 4. The DVOP will attempt to contact the veteran at least three times per month, for a maximum of two months.

# 1.7 HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAM (HVRP)

Together with partners nationwide, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the End Veterans Homelessness Initiative to make sure that veterans are able to obtain permanent housing and that veterans at risk of homelessness remain housed. One effort related to this partnership is to connect homeless veterans to the workforce programs available through American Job Centers (AJCs) to ensure they receive appropriate workforce services. Being connected to the labor market is one step towards self-sufficiency, including the attainment of affordable housing.

The following HVRP grantees are currently operating in South Carolina:

- Fast Forward Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties
- Second Chance Jobs Greenville, Trident, Upstate, and WorkLink LWDAs

HVRP grantees are required to enroll all participants through local SC Works centers. This is to create a sustainable partnership in which grantees understand each other's services and to ensure that participants' employment needs are met. Enrollment occurs when the HVRP participant receives a WP-funded employment service, a JVSG-funded DVOP service, or a WIOA Title I-funded service, such as services for adults or DWs. Fast Forward and Second Chance Jobs are responsible for working with appropriate WP, JVSG, and WIOA Title I staff in the SC Works centers to facilitate the enrollment of HVRP participants.

# Point of entry and tracking in SCWOS

The <u>Veterans' Services Intake Form</u> should be used by intake staff at the initial point of entry in the SC Works centers to identify homeless veterans. Homeless veterans meet the criterion of having a SBE and must be immediately referred to a DVOP. If a DVOP is not available, the individual must be referred to a DEW Workforce Consultant for the provision of individualized services.

After an initial assessment, the DVOP or Workforce Consultant will determine if the veteran would benefit from a referral to an HVRP grantee. If so, the DVOP/Workforce Consultant will schedule an appointment with the HVRP grantee and ensure that the participant, HVRP grantee, and DVOP/Workforce Consultant will all be in attendance.

If the initial point of entry for the homeless veteran is the HVRP grantee's office, the grantee will set up the appointment with a DVOP/Workforce Consultant, participant, and grantee. The HVRP grantee will make referrals for enrollment in other workforce programs including WIOA Title I, as appropriate.

To ensure that HVRP participants are uniquely identified in SCWOS, Fast Forward or Second Chance Jobs must be selected by DEW staff in the WP Application under the Participant Individual Record Layout (PIRL) tab.

# PART II: LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE (LVER) PROGRAM

# 2.1 LVER OUTREACH

In the JVSG program, "outreach" is defined as a two-way communication between Employment Services (ES) and the stakeholder. Outreach establishes and fosters mutual understanding, promotes participation and involvement, and influences behaviors, attitudes, and actions. Outreach finds employers who are not using services provided by ES and informing and educating them about the services provided by South Carolina's workforce system.

#### 2.1.1 WHY DO WE CONDUCT OUTREACH?

- Develop a liaison between the agency and employers
- Improve workforce system awareness among the employer community
- Increase collaboration and communication with employers, Chambers of Commerce, and other employer groups
- Share resources and exchange ideas
- Stimulate behavioral change

#### 2.1.2 Principles of Outreach

- Clearly identify the employers that you are trying to reach.
- One size does not fit all—tailor your outreach strategy, message, and materials according to your target audience.
- Think from the employer's perspective and include information about your services that may be helpful.
- Enlist key community leaders to be your ambassadors.
- Outreach = Material + Personal Contact in multiple ways and at multiple times; build trust and become a familiar face.
- Be a conversationalist, not a preacher.
- Consider where you have done outreach and think about the employers that are missing; track the veterans you are trying to place and adjust your strategy as needed.

#### 2.1.3 LVER OUTREACH GOALS

Outreach goals will be determined by the Regional Manager and the needs of the Business Services Team (BST), and include:

- Enhance employers' awareness of SC Works centers
- Increase the visibility of AJC programs among the employer community
- Increase employer community support
- Engage new employers

#### 2.1.4 LVER OUTREACH LIFE CYCLE

#### **Planning**

- Needs assessment (employers)
- Goals and objectives (Target employers based on the veterans that you are trying to place.)
- Stakeholder identification (Who is doing what?)

#### **Development**

- Structure for Implementation (up to 60% planning, a minimum of 40% execution)
- Outreach Strategy Tools (flyers, pamphlets, organizations)

#### Execution

- Implementation (make it happen)
- Adjustments (flexibility)

#### **Evaluation**

- Process and outcome evaluation
- Results analysis

#### 2.1.5 TARGET POPULATIONS

- Employers
- Employer groups, such as:
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM)
  - Economic Development Office (found in each county)
  - Small Business Administration (SBA)

# 2.1.6 How to Target Employers While Conducting Outreach

#### 2.1.6.1 THE KEY WORD IS "CONVERSATION."

- Greeting
- Introduction
- Programs available
- Contact information
- Appreciation for the encounter

#### 2.1.6.2 FOLLOW-UP IS ESSENTIAL TO OUTREACH.

- Renew contact.
- Discuss any new programs.
- Review a couple of the programs that have already been discussed.
- Express appreciation for the encounter.

#### 2.1.7 OUTREACH ISSUES

- ODA (Out Driving Around)
- Visiting the same employer over and over again
- "Come see me." (This *never* gives a result.)
- Going somewhere during social hour (after normal working hours)
- DON'T go to the same organizations where the DVOP is conducting outreach.
- Emailing, phone calls, and conducting administrative duties are NOT outreach.

#### 2.1.8 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

- Make a plan.
- Make appointments with employers, and then enter the appointment on your calendar.
- Enter the employer in SCWOS prior to going out to the organization.
  - Check to see if the employer is already in SCWOS.
  - If not, create a marketing lead account for the employer.

Do not place on your schedule that you are "out driving around looking for employers."

#### **2.1.9 SUMMARY**

- Make a plan.
- Stick to the plan.
- If the plan begins to fail, be ready to "adjust fire."
- Find the right employers for the veterans that you are trying to place.
- Record everything in SCWOS, including case notes.
- Have fun.
- Connect with the intention of helping others.
- Relax. Focus on what you can bring to the party or offer in the form of contacts, knowledge, or resources.

# 2.2 I VFR PRIORITIES

- 1. Place job-ready veterans into employment using "job development" note category in case notes on the veteran's SCWOS account.
  - "Job development" or Job Development Attempt (JDA) occurs when a staff member contacts a registered employer on behalf of an individual or group of individuals to develop a possible employment opportunity where no known job openings or active job order currently exists (20 CFR § 651.10; see also ES Manual 1.3.8.2).
- 2. Conduct employer outreach and market all SC Works center programs.

#### 2.2.1 100% LVER STAFF

Full-time LVER staff must perform only the duties outlined in 38 U.S.C. § 4104:

- Conduct outreach to employers in the area in order to assist veterans in gaining employment, including conducting seminars for employers and, in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops and establishing job search groups
- Facilitate employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans in SC under ES programs

LVERs must not perform any functions outside of these listed duties.

# PART III: OPERATIONS & OVERSIGHT

# 3.1 DVOP/LVER REGIONAL MANAGER MEETINGS

Goals of DVOP/LVER regional manager meetings:

- Ensure that the DVOP and LVER are communicating with each other and the regional manager
- Ensure that veterans do not "fall through the cracks"

DVOPs, LVERs, and regional managers are required to meet weekly to discuss the following:

- Current DVOP case list found in SCWOS
- Current list of veterans in SCWOS that the LVER is trying to place into employment
- Pending success stories
- Upcoming DVOP outreach plan for the week
- Upcoming LVER outreach plan for the week
- DVOP/LVER special projects, as appropriate
- Quarterly Report, as appropriate

# 3.2 QUARTERLY REPORTS

# 3.2.1 DVOP'S ROLE

1. Complete the DVOP section of the Quarterly Report in a timely manner.

**NOTE**: If there are two DVOPs in the SC Works center, each DVOP must complete the DVOP section of the report with their unique information. DVOPs **must not** combine their information in the Quarterly Report.

2. Submit the report to the LVER.

#### 3.2.2 LVER'S ROLE

- 1. Complete the LVER section for each comprehensive center out of which the LVER operates. (Some LVERs cover multiple centers.)
- 2. Submit the Quarterly Report to the regional manager.

#### 3.2.3 REGIONAL MANAGER'S ROLE

- 1. Review the Quarterly Report.
- 2. Correct and address any issues.
- 3. Submit the report to the Area Director.

#### 3.2.4 AREA DIRECTOR'S ROLE

- 1. Review the Quarterly Report.
- 2. Correct and address any issues.
- 3. Submit the report to the Veterans Services Program Manager.

# 3.3 Success Stories

VETS requires all DVOPs and LVERs to submit success stories when the veteran they are working with is successful. The success and what you have done for the veteran toward the success must be documented in SCWOS. The <u>Veterans Success Story Consent Form</u> and <u>Veterans Success Story Template</u> can be found in SCWOS under Staff Online Resources.

# 3.3.1 WRITING THE SUCCESS STORY:

- Encourage the veteran to sign the release form on "day one." Scan and save it to a "success story file."
- Fill out the fillable-PDF form online.
  - Save it with all fields completed.
  - Check the appropriate tabs—always check the JVSG tab.
  - Send the completed success story form, and the saved release form, to Marlin Bodison (<u>mbodison@dew.sc.gov</u>) and Ryan Tolley (<u>rtolley@dew.sc.gov</u>).
- The success story is about YOU—what YOU did to make this veteran a success.

#### Example:

I assisted this veteran with housing and food, and then set up a resume and interview class that the veteran attended. I sent the resume to the jobs team. They secured an interview at which the veteran closed the deal and got the job. He starts at <employer XYZ> on Monday.

• The story must mirror what is documented in SCWOS. When the veteran's account is reviewed, it should have appropriate service referrals, as well as any workshops attended, with results.

# 3.4 CHANGE REQUESTS

The JVSG program only uses change requests to correct an individual's record. Change requests are not used to correct performance. Change requests may be used for the following reasons:

Workforce Reporting and Compliance (WRC, pronounced "work")—formerly "PolnPro" now reports to the Workforce Development Division (WDD).

WRC's new inbox: WRC@dew.sc.gov

- Correct SSNs
- Merge duplicate records
- Amend case notes that violate rules regarding PII (see ES Manual 6.6)

The <u>SCWOS Active Record Change (ARC) Form</u> may be accessed on SCWOS under Staff Online Resources. This form must be submitted to <u>WRC@dew.sc.gov</u>.

# PART IV: RESOURCES

# 4.1 TOPICS

#### Case Management

- SCWOS Case Management Training Day 1 (Sep. 7, 2021)
- SCWOS Case Management Training Day 2 (Sep. 15, 2021)

#### **Objective Assessment**

• Veterans Objective Assessment: Overall Note Section Desk Aid (Apr. 13, 2023)

#### Individual Employment Plan (IEP)

- State Instruction 18-01: Individual Employment Plans (Jul. 6, 2018)
- IEP Procedures for Veterans' Services Staff in SCWOS (Jul. 10, 2018)
- IEP Training PowerPoint (Aug. 6, 2018)

# 4.2 FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- Veterans' Program Letters (VPLs) issued by VETS: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/resources/VPLS/VPLDirectory
- Training and Employment Guidance Letters (TEGLs), Training and Employment Notices (TENs), and other DOL guidance: <a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories</a>
- National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) Glossary https://www.nvti.org/Resources/NVTI-Glossary
- State instructions, memoranda, and manuals: <a href="https://scworks.org/workforce-system/policies-and-guidance">https://scworks.org/workforce-system/policies-and-guidance</a>

# 4.3 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES MANUAL

The <u>Employment Services (ES) Manual</u> provides guidance on ES and the SC Works system. The JVSG SOP should be used in conjunction with the ES Manual. The ES Manual is updated annually and posted on the Policies & Guidance page of scworks.org.

# 4.4 SCWOS STAFF ONLINE RESOURCES

<u>Staff Online Resources</u> is a collection of resources for staff found on SCWOS. Login to SCWOS, scroll down the page to the "Other Staff Services" tab in the left margin, and select Staff Online Resources. Documents found on Staff Online Resources include upto-date WP Activity Codes, ARC Form, Veterans Services Intake Form, and more.

# PART V: ABBREVIATIONS

AJC American Job Center

BST Business Services Team

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

DOL US Department of Labor

DVOR Disabled Veterans Outroach Brog

**DVOP** Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and staff who provide services to individuals under this program

DW Dislocated WorkerES Employment Services

**ESGR** Employer Support of the Guard and

Reserve

HVRP Homeless Veterans' Reintegration

**Programs** 

IEP Individual Employment Plan
ISC Intensive Service Coordinator
JDA Job Development Attempt
JVSG Jobs for Veterans State Grants
LMI Labor Market Information
LVER Local Veterans' Employment
Representative

LWDA Local Workforce Development AreaLWDB Local Workforce Development Board

MTF Military Treatment Facility
NPWE Non-Paid Work Experience

PII Personally Identifiable Information
PIRL Participant Individual Record Layout

SBA Small Business AdministrationSBE Significant Barriers to Employment

**SCWOS** SC Works Online Services

SHRM Society of Human Resources

Management
State Instruction

SSN Social Security Number

TAA Trade Adjustment Assistance

**TEGL** Training and Employment Guidance

Letter

SI

**TEN** Training and Employment Notice

**USC** United States Code

USERRA Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994

VA Veterans' Association

VETS Veteran's Employment and Training

Services (DOL)

VPL Veterans' Policy Letter

VR&E Vocational Readiness and Employment

Services (VA & DEW)

WIOA Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

Act of 2014

WP Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933WTU Warrior Transition Unit