

*I hadn't worked in 20 years—the support I was given by my employment specialist made me realize I can go to work like everybody else.*

*Rita*

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## Supported Employment Program Services

- Help filling out job applications.
- Interviews arranged with employers.
- Help with interview questions.
- Attending interviews with you (upon requested).
- Help with figuring out what type of work you want.
- Going with you on the job to help you get used to the job duties or help you handle problems if they arise after hire.
- Work closely with your clinician and you to assist with symptoms that may occur.
- Offer you support for as long as you request it.



**PM&RS**

Supported Employment Program



## I think I want to work



*Typically when I had a relapse, and my symptoms went out of control, I would quit my job. This time, my employment specialist was able to speak with my boss and clear the way for me to take some time off and return to my job*

**Bob**

## Will working affect my benefits?

Supported Employment is a program that offers assistance and on-going support for veterans who are interested in going to work. Our staff works with you on an individual basis as well as works closely with your clinician to give you the best possible chance to achieve your goals. Research has shown that working helps us feel better about ourselves. This fact has been proven for people with and without any disability. The VA has adopted this philosophy by offering programs that help veterans return to work.



This is a very common concern.

Supported Employment is a Therapeutic Program, covered under 38 U.S.C. 1718, which states that participating in this program cannot be used to deny or discontinue any VA pension or compensation. Staff will discuss with you any effects working will have on other benefits BEFORE you make any decisions.

## What if I have anxiety about returning to work?

It is normal to have some anxiety about starting a job—but be assured your Employment Specialist will work at your pace to help you through this anxiety.

## What if I “fail” or decide to quit a job?

Quitting a job is not a failure. Each job provides a working experience. However, we will help you plan for your success.

## Do I have to work 40 hours a week?

Work is not necessarily a 40-hour week. We will assist you to determine the number of hours that are right for you. Your schedule could range from a few hours a week to full-time.