

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

July 2022

Supporting Justice-Involved Veterans



Marc Gamez is a former Air Force security specialist who was referred to the Veterans Career Program (VCP) by the Texas Veterans Commission to help him find employment. Marc met with Joel Hoots, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor based in San Antonio, TX.

As they discussed his case, Marc shared that he had a felony on his record. Joel assessed that it may be difficult to find employment within the IT field due to security and background checks; and suggested that they look at other options as a back-up plan.

While Marc was not eligible for many VA services, he was a great candidate for the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) that offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Joel provided Marc with resource links to find schools in his area; and Marc was interested to find a truck driving school. He shared that he had tried to apply here before but was denied the funding; he decided that he would go back and try again with the truck driving school. The school had some reservations due to Marc's record of a felony and requested that he find employment services in order to proceed with training. This is where Joel went above and beyond – he phoned the truck driving school directly and discussed the use of the VRRAP benefit with them; and noted that VCP would take over the responsibility of finding employment for Marc. Joel also spoke with several of the school employees to advocate for Marc to ensure access to the program.

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

15 Client Placements

- 10 Paid Employment
- 4 Education/Training
- 1 Volunteer
 - 14 Veterans
 - 3 PVA Members
 - 1 Family Members
 - 0 Caregivers
- The average salary for the 10 clients placed in full time employment was \$81,290.



Marc graduated recently and was employed within two weeks of completing training. He is now working for USA Truck as a Regional Driver across multiple states. Marc has expressed his gratitude to Joel for his commitment to Veterans and his professionalism with dealing with the school administrators to allow him access to the training.

Note: VRRAP covers education and training programs that lead to high-demand jobs. If you're approved for VRRAP, you can get up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates.

The Veterans Administration (VA) will stop accepting new VRRAP enrollments on December 11, 2022 - or when they reach either the \$386 million funding limit or the 17,250-participant limit, whichever comes first.

Additional details and an application can be found at: www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance