

VetWORKS

Far too many of the men and women who serve our country are homeless and jobless. These issues are interconnected. It is difficult to find and keep a job without a home base and it is equally hard to maintain stable housing without an adequate income. Since 2010, Alliance has helped thousands of homeless veterans and their families get stable housing through a Department of Veterans Affairs grant-funded program, Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF). A majority of these veterans are either unemployed or severely under-employed. And, an alarming 83% of SSVF veterans' households are struggling to meet basic living expenses on an annual income of less than \$24,000 (including all household members' earnings), less than the federal 2017 poverty level of \$24,600 for a family of four. Alliance is addressing this need through VetWORKS, a program focused on helping our veterans get, and keep, stable housing and good jobs.

ABOUT VetWORKS

VetWORKS serves more than 200 homeless veterans in the urban areas of Baltimore City and Baltimore County, Maryland annually. The program:

- Addresses veterans' most frequently cited barriers to employment
- Tackles homelessness and joblessness simultaneously
- Provides highly individualized supports including financial assistance
- Offers a fast track to jobs with career path potential in Maryland's high-growth industries
- Promotes participant retention and long-term stability with extended case management.

VetWORKS primarily recruits participants from Alliance's SSVF program, which secures permanent housing for homeless and at-risk veterans and provides an intensive case management period to link veterans with housing and other needed resources. VetWORKS staff collaborate closely with the SSVF program to provide homeless veterans with information about the program, and coordinate individualized veterans' case management and other supports to ensure program participants can successfully complete job training courses and pursue employment opportunities. Then, VetWORKS staff provide ongoing support for at least one year post-employment to promote job retention and housing stability.

VetWORKS partners with the National Center for Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA), which develops job trainings in high-growth occupations, including veteran-tailored job trainings in three high-growth industries in the greater

Baltimore area—construction, automotive, and commercial trucking—to which 170 VetWORKS participants each year will have guaranteed access. These job trainings were developed in collaboration with area businesses committed to long-term partnership. Local employers offer apprenticeships and conduct on-site interviews with training program graduates. And while the trainings focus on specific occupations, they offer trainees an entrée into industries with a wide variety of work options and career-path potential, helping to better prepare veterans for the future.

A grant from the Department of Labor provides funding for VetWORKS' personnel, guaranteed access to job trainings for program participants, and financial assistance for participants' transportation, work clothing, and supplies.

CONTACT VetWORKS

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**About Alliance/Sheppard Pratt Health System**

[Alliance](#) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mosaic Community Services, part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System (SPHS).

Sheppard Pratt Health System (SPHS) is the largest private, non-profit provider of mental health, substance use, special education, and social services in the country. A nationwide resource, SPHS provides 2.3 million services annually across a comprehensive continuum of care. Since its founding in 1853, SPHS has been innovating the field through research, best practice implementation, and a focus on improving the quality of mental health care on a global level. SPHS has been consistently ranked as a top national psychiatric hospital by [U.S. News & World Report](#) for the past 27 years.

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