

The PECO-Project H.O.M.E. Veterans' Training & Employment Program

Empowering formerly homeless veterans to reach their fullest potential through employment and educational opportunities that are based on the principles of recovery.

The Project H.O.M.E. PECO Veterans Program showed me that I could do other things. It helped me to build up my computer skills. I learned how to better interact with people.

I challenged myself to learn new things, and it helped me to increase my confidence in my myself and my abilities. 2011 will be my year!

- Dennis Saunders

For many veterans, the journey back from homelessness entails rebuilding the foundation of their lives in order to reclaim their independence and dignity.

The Veterans Training and Employment Program – a partnership between Project H.O.M.E and PECO – is a model that uses the restorative power of work, education and community to help formerly homeless veterans re-make their lives. The vehicle for accomplishing this change is the Internship, a nine month experience, during which the Interns hold down real jobs and learn real skills needed for success at work and in their lives. The experience is designed for the Interns to develop new skills, re-discover hidden talents and set new goals for a life of independence, productivity, and contribution to family and community.

By the end of the Internship, each intern is expected to obtain independent employment.

How the Veterans Training and Employment Program works:

- Immediately after acceptance into the program, Interns complete an assessment of work related experiences, interests, skills, and gaps. This helps them set their goals and identify the actions needed to be successful in the Internship.
- Interns are matched with participating employers, where they receive specific job assignments, appropriate on-the-job training, and supervision and performance evaluations. Interns work at their sites for 15 hrs per week at an hourly rate of \$8.50.
- Interns engage in formal learning and personal enrichment activities throughout the Internship, including computer training, money management, and training programs that develop the attitudes and behaviors necessary for success at work. Each Intern is responsible engaging in 3 hours per week of learning outside of the job site, and receives \$8.50 for each hour spent in an approved learning activity.
- Interns attend mandatory monthly meetings that serve as a supportive environment where issues related to work and recovery are processed and addressed by professional counselors and job coaches. They meet regularly with Project H.O.M.E.'s program manager to review their goals and progress; receive job coaching; and to address problems and barriers. The program manager meets with interns' workplace supervisors on a pre-determined basis.
- Assistance with post-internship employment is provided by Project H.O.M.E's employment specialists.

What the Placement Sites Provide:

- Fifteen hours per week of productive work where interns will learn valuable job skills over the course of the 9 month experience with increasing levels of responsibility. Working hours should be M-F, day shift.
- On-the-job training and regular supervision; periodic conferences with Project HOME program manager on interns' performance.
- Periodic formal/written evaluations that include strengths and needed improvements
- Letter of recommendation following successful completion of the Internship.



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