

## **Transitional Work Experience Program**

The State of Kansas supports the “Transitional Work Experience Program” that is managed by the Federal Veterans Administration – Veterans Industries of Topeka at Colmery O’Neil VA Medical Center. This program provides veterans in Topeka an opportunity to work in the community and receive therapeutic work experience while at Colmery O’Neil VA Medical Center. They place veterans in full-time contract positions for \$8.25 per hour.

The veterans can help the State of Kansas in Topeka, Kansas, in many functions including custodial, grounds-keeping, food preparation and general labor, whatever tasks need to be performed on a daily basis. Daily work hours can be assigned to fit the needs of the State of Kansas. The contracts generally extend from 6 months to one year, but can continue as long as needed. They are flexible to provide quality-minded workers at an economical savings for your agency. The contract work provides financial opportunities for veterans returning to work and independent living.

The agency will sign a contract to pay the Federal Veterans Administration the \$8.25 per hour for each veteran they employ. The veteran then is paid through the Federal Veterans Administration.

The great advantage to this is that the State of Kansas is not responsible for withholding taxes, insurance, or Workman’s Compensation. Veterans Administration provides medical care for veterans through the medical unit of Colmery O’Neil VA Medical Center. The veterans receive therapeutic work experience and are able to return to full-time work and independent living in the Topeka community. The State of Kansas benefits from an economical source of reliable labor.

This program currently provides good contract workers in custodial, grounds-keeping, food and nutrition preparation and other work related tasks for the following customers: Brewster Place, Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center, Dillons Food Stores, Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries, NAMI, Penwell-Gable Cemetery and Mausoleum, TMI Corp, Kansas State Surplus, and Washburn University.

The Veterans Industries of Topeka also maintain a therapeutic workshop on-campus that provides collating, rework, packaging, repacking, shrink-wrapping and other operations at an economical cost for businesses. They have a cargo truck that pick-ups and delivers within the Topeka community. Businesses they have provided good work in the work-clinic with fast turnaround include: Allen Press, Hallmark Cards, Kansas State Printing, Lohmann and Rauscher, and Mainline Printing.

Please contact Tom Lackey, the Division of Personnel Services, by telephone: 296-4714 or email at: [tom.lackey@da.ks.gov](mailto:tom.lackey@da.ks.gov); he can assist you in contacting the Veterans Employment Representatives at Veterans Industries of Topeka. You may also contact the Veterans Industries of Topeka directly. You can contact Gary Lechlite, Veterans Employment Rep. at telephone at

(785) 350-3111 ext 52960 or email at: [Gary.Lechliter@va.gov](mailto:Gary.Lechliter@va.gov); or Deb Varney at telephone at (785) 350-3111 ext 52959 or email at [Deb.Varney@va.gov](mailto:Deb.Varney@va.gov).