



July 10, 2017

Mr. Sam Shellenberger
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations & Management
USDOL Veterans Employment & Training Service
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Shellenberger,

Attached for your consideration please are proposed policy recommendations for changes to the JVSG program. These were prepared and overwhelmingly approved by NASWA members and leadership. We understand VETS staff is currently undertaking a review of the existing Significant Barriers to Employment, so the timing of this request seems opportune to facilitate an expansion of services to more Veterans in need of specialized services.

The document includes three key recommendations:

- 1) Currently, DVOPs are limited to serving only Veterans and eligible spouses who have a “significant barrier to employment,” or SBE (e.g. homelessness, lack of a high school credential, current or former offender status, etc.). One of those SBEs is a service-connected, VA rated, disability. Veterans with non-service connected disabilities are seen by non-JVSG funded personnel, primarily those funded by Wagner-Peyser and/or WIOA.

NASWA proposes changing this SBE definition to allow DVOPs to serve all veterans with a disability, not just those connected to military service.

- 2) JVSG law also allows the Secretary of Labor to identify other populations eligible for DVOP services. Currently, those identified populations include: Veterans aged 18 to 24, and Transitioning Service Members; and wounded, ill or injured service members receiving treatment, and their caregivers.

NASWA proposes each state can designate a state-specific SBE that addresses its unique needs. Examples include: older Veterans, Native American Veterans, Veterans who are single custodial parents, and Veterans impacted by specific economic downturns.

- 3) Finally, to test these concepts, the following nine states have volunteered to serve as pilot projects: Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

We look forward to your response. Please contact either Pam Gerassimides or Lori Adams with any questions or comments. We appreciate our partnership with USDOL to serve our nation's Veterans, Transitioning Service Members and eligible spouses.

Sincerely,



Scott B. Sanders
Executive Director
National Association of State Workforce Agencies

cc: Ivan Denton, Director, Office of National Programs
William Metheny, Director, Office of Field Operations

Attachment