

This ten-bed CWT/TR Program is located on the ground of the VA Medical Center in Tomah, Wisconsin. This program is based on the premise that many veterans with severe substance abuse disorders and/or serious mental illnesses need extended residential treatment.

The program provides long-term rehabilitation services for homeless veterans who suffer a myriad of complex mental health, substance abuse, and/or medical conditions. Referral sources include inpatient, residential, or outpatient services based either in the VA Medical Center or the community.

#### Services Provided:

- Ongoing assessment and evaluation.
- Receiving group and individual counseling.
- Participating in community volunteer activities.
- Providing peer counseling and mentoring.
- Learning to manage their mental illness.
- Teaching personal finance management.
- Developing interpersonal skills.
- Leadership development.
- Developing daily living skills.
- Honing personal medication management skills.
- Identifying and utilizing support networks.
- Participating in recreation and avocational activities.
- Working toward reintegration into the community.

#### Transitional Residence (TR):

The goals of the CWT/TR program are to help eligible veterans to:

- Remain sober and improve their mental health status in a supportive residential setting.
- Obtain and sustain employment and stable housing in the community.
- Manage their lives in an independent and productive manner.
- Minimize their reliance on institutional care.
- Receive clinical and residential support.
- Receive skills training such as job readiness and money management.
- Learn independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning and home maintenance.
- Receive vocational counseling.
- Learn job-searching techniques for competitive job placement.
- Identify and integrate support systems such as Alcoholics Anonymous, sponsors, and other positive influences and community resources.
- Learn anger and stress management and other problem-solving techniques.
- Explore reintegration into community and family living.

In addition, this program provides veterans, male and female the experience of living in a homelike and comfortable setting with personal space for privacy and security of person and property. Veterans residing in the CWT/TR Program pay a program fee from their earnings made by working in the Veterans Administration's CWT program. Veterans are charged this fee primarily to increase their sense of responsibility for their own recovery.

#### Living in the House:

For veterans in the CWT/TR Program, competitive employment is the primary vocational goal. Participants are required to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The program provides veterans with the opportunity to enhance daily living skills. Additionally, work experience and earned income are used to achieve optimal levels of independence and productivity. Residents work in CWT and after work they participate in structured activities designed to develop and practice healthy and successful community life skills. Therapeutic activities take place either in the residence or in the community. Emphasis is placed on community activities.

To promote independent living, residents are responsible for buying and preparing their own food, shopping for necessary supplies, and cleaning their individual living spaces as well as community living areas.

#### Admission Criteria:

- Eligibility for most VA benefits is based on discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions and the results of a means test.
- Veterans must be committed to obtaining independent housing and competitive work in the community.
- Veterans are expected to participate in the CWT program.
- Veterans must have the ability to handle normal daily living activities, including self-medication.
- Veterans must be willing to sign agreements regarding areas of responsibility in the TR Program.
- Veterans must be willing to participate in random drug testing.

Upon admission to the program, rehabilitation plans are jointly developed with the veteran and their treatment team, based on the veterans' strengths, abilities, needs, preferences, and desired outcomes. These plans include measurable rehabilitation goals, specific objectives and methods for meeting goals, a proposed length of stay, and assignment of a counselor.

#### Alumni Activities:

The CWT/TR invites previous residents to return to their former "home" to offer encouragement to current program participants. Generally, alumni activities consist of invitations to social events at the residence, such as holidays, cookouts, graduations, or other festive events. Inclusion of alumni in such events affords opportunities for them to share their community re-entry experiences with current participants, encourages possible "mentoring" relationships, and reminds current residents that the program can work for them.

Thank you for considering the Transitional Residence Program. Please call 608-372-1726 if you have any questions.

Gordon Aleckson, VRS, CRT  
Program Manager  
608-372-1726

Tomah VA website:  
[www.tomah.va.gov](http://www.tomah.va.gov)

#### **Additional Information**

Tomah VA Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Program  
Phone: 1-800-872-8662, ext.61651  
Tomah VA Substance Abuse/Dual Diagnosis Program  
Phone: 1-800-872-8662, ext. 61758 or  
608-372-1758

#### **Tomah VA Community Based Outreach Centers**

Loyal Clinic – 715-255-9799  
La Crosse Clinic – 608-784-3883  
Wausau Clinic – 715-842-2834  
Wisconsin Rapids Clinic – 715-424-3844

Eligibility for Services (Tomah VA)  
608-372-3971, ext. 17038 or ext 11883  
Means Testing, ext. 17440

#### **Veterans Assistance Programs**

Tomah, WI Homeless Program  
1-800-872-8662, ext. 61280

#### **King Homeless Program**

1-800-256-9300, ext. 16702

#### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
Press 1 for Veterans  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

#### **Help a Homeless Veteran Now**

Contact VA's National Homeless Call Center  
1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)  
[www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)

# **Compensated Work Therapy /Transitional Residence Program (CWT/TR)**



**Tomah VA Medical Center  
500 E. Veterans St.  
Tomah, WI 54660**

**(608) 372-1726 or  
1-800-872-8662, ext. 61726  
Compensated Work  
Therapy/Transitional Residence  
Program (CWT/TR)**