



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



**SOCIAL
FINANCE**

VA, partner organizations launch innovative approach using long-term employment to improve lives of Veterans with PTSD

October 3, 2018 - WASHINGTON — With research showing that Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) face significant barriers to employment, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and several state, city and nonprofit organizations recently created a first-of-its-kind “Pay for-Success” project to improve employment outcomes for such Veterans.

The Veterans Coordinated Approach to Recovery and Employment (Veterans CARE) project was launched Oct. 3 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston, New York City partners and the nonprofit organization Social Finance, which stemmed from VA’s grant award to the organization, and will serve 480 Veterans over three years in New York City; Boston and Brockton, Massachusetts; and Central and Western Massachusetts.

“This project demonstrates that supporting Veterans depends on networks of collaborative partnerships, as well as great research and innovative ideas,” said **VA Secretary Robert Wilkie**. “Research and innovation are fundamental to improving the health care and benefits for our nation’s Veterans.”

According to research, PTSD interferes with a person’s ability to thrive in the workforce, and has been found to impact sustained employment and income negatively. In addition, a negative cycle exists between unemployment and PTSD -- persistent unemployment often is linked to negative health conditions, including depression, which can exacerbate PTSD symptoms.

Further, [VA research](#) noted that up to 20 percent of Veterans from recent tours of duty have PTSD, and a 2015 analysis found that Veterans’ labor force participation had declined over the previous 35 years, in close correlation with a growth in service-connected disability.

The Veterans CARE project will involve local VA medical centers to deliver Individual Placement and Support (IPS), an evidence-based approach to supported employment, to program participants. The Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center (TVAMC) will oversee and monitor the project.

“The Veterans CARE project will take our work from the research arena into real-world settings where we plan to achieve the highest level of impact of IPS at full scale,” said **Veterans CARE Study Chair Dr. Lori Davis**. “Sustained meaningful work is a key part of the recovery plan for Veterans living with PTSD.”

Pay for Success is a public finance model that harnesses the power of the capital markets to address critical social and environmental challenges and improve the lives of those in need. In this Pay for Success project, BNP Paribas, Northern Trust, The Dakota Foundation, Deutsche Bank and Robin Hood Foundation provided \$5.1 million in impact capital to fund the project.

“We are excited to launch the first Pay for Success project globally to support Veterans, who have served our nation so honorably,” said **Tracy Palandjian, CEO and co-founder of Social Finance**. “The Veterans CARE project is about bringing the public, private and social sectors together to help Veterans with PTSD secure meaningful employment and lead healthier, happier lives.”

VA’s Center for Innovation and the Corporation for National and Community Service’s Social Innovation Fund are providing \$3 million, which is matched by local government partners, to repay project investors if the project achieves measurable results for Veterans.

“Massachusetts is committed to improving employment opportunities for our veterans, and we look forward to working with our partners on the Veterans CARE project to advance this shared objective,” said **Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker**. “This project will help secure meaningful job opportunities and a more stable future for veterans with PTSD and help us repay the debt the country and Commonwealth owe veterans.”

“The City of Boston is committed to doing everything it can to support our veteran community,” said **Mayor Walsh**. “The City is proud to participate in the Vets CARE program. The program, in conjunction with an array of other services provided through the City, will give our veterans an opportunity not just to survive but thrive to be their very best.”

“The IPS treatment helps you get the work you want and also the type of work you can handle. That’s so important for guys like me,” said **Bob Simonovich, a Veteran who received Individual Placement and Support services**. “Ryan, my IPS specialist, is like my agent. He works for you and with you. He cares for you. You have someone on your side. This is one of the best things I’ve ever done. It has been a game changer for sure.”

“BNP Paribas is proud to provide support to Veterans through a cutting-edge financing solution with social impact,” says **Cambyse Parsi, CSR Officer at BNP Paribas**. “Our commitment has been strengthened by the support of our Military Employee Resource Group, whose goal is to promote soldier and veteran initiatives in our local communities.”

“As an active investor in projects that directly benefit our communities, Northern Trust is pleased that our fifth Pay-for-Success impact investment provides employment assistance to veterans using a finance tool that aligns repayment with their success,” said **Connie Lindsey, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Diversity & Inclusion at Northern Trust**.

“The Dakota Foundation is a proud partner in the Veterans CARE project, which effectively demonstrates how to improve mental health support and employment opportunities for our Veterans through evidence-based services,” said **Bart Holaday, Founder and Chairman of the Dakota Foundation**.

“Deutsche Bank is proud to partner with the Veterans Administration and other concerned entities to address this critical issue,” said **John Eydenberg, Chairman, Deutsche Bank Americas**. “As a founding member of Veterans On Wall Street, Deutsche Bank is committed to equipping our veterans to succeed in the workforce after their years of service.”

For more information about the Veterans CARE project, go to <http://socialfinance.org/focus-areas/workforce/veterans-care-project/>.

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