Toward Maximum Independence

An estimated 25 percent of veterans have a disability, many of whom have the drive to be employed. Toward Maximum Independence (TMI) is a nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to transforming the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1981 and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since 2000. In 2020, we launched our services for veterans with disabilities. The individuals we are privileged to serve deserve nothing less than the opportunity to reach their full potential in life.

It is our mission to provide personalized services to those who require support, enabling them to make informed choices regarding how they live, work and function productively and independently in the community.

What We Believe

The three cornerstones of a strong foundation are: living as independently as possible, having the opportunity for real work for real pay, and a safe, caring home. We are honored to be able to help lay that foundation for our hundreds of clients throughout San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties.

Toward Maximum Independence, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public benefit corporation.
**VETERAN PROGRAM**

Toward Maximum Independence (TMI) Veteran Employment Services program is designed to assist **veterans with disabilities** to choose, obtain, and maintain employment commensurate with their career choice and vocational interests within San Diego County. Individual strengths and abilities, prior work experience, and career preference will be integral factors in determining placement. Vocational assessment, as well as social, psychological, communication, environmental, and medical needs will also be considered. The goal is to pre-screen and match qualified individuals with employers. TMI is confident that veterans with disabilities can achieve their employment aspirations with our assistance.

**ENTRANCE CRITERIA**

Each client referred to TMI must meet the basic entrance criteria:

- Must have an approved Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Minimum age of 18 years
- Expressed desire to participate in employment services
- Documented diagnosed disability
- Compliance with medication
- Behavior not dangerous to self or others
- Proof of veteran status

**REFERRAL PROCESS**

Referrals shall be received on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, economic status, physical disability or medical condition.

1. Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will complete the TMI Employment Solutions (ES) Referral Form.
2. VRC will provide pertinent information from the DOR case file with written authorization for services including release of information authorizations. Information will also include the DOR IPE that outlines the employment goals, work restrictions, employment history, and other job placement considerations.
3. This information will be sent to the TMI Director of Supported Employment (SE) for approval based on TMI’s entrance criteria and to track annual referrals.
4. Director of SE will forward ES referral packet to TMI Veteran Employment Manager (VEM) who will confirm receipt with the referring VRC.
5. VEM shall contact and schedule intake meeting with referred client within 72 hours of receipt of referral.

We are here to help veterans find fulfilling employment opportunities. If you are a veteran with a disability or a business looking to partner with our services for veterans, please contact:

**Veteran Employment Manager**
Cesar Peraza
(619) 916-1442
cesarp@tmi-inc.org