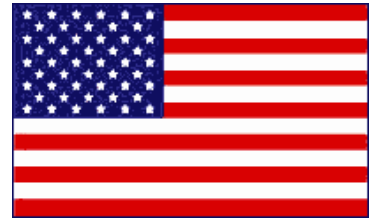




PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER

Portland, Oregon Division
Vancouver, Washington Division
Community Based Outpatient Clinics
Salem, OR Bend, OR
Camp Rilea (Warrenton, OR)



NOTICE OF VACANCY

1. <u>Announcement Number</u> <p style="text-align: center;">T38-10-0125-PS</p>	2. <u>Title, Series, Grade, Salary</u> <p style="text-align: center;"> Social Worker FS GS-185-12 \$72,540-94,300 per annum <i>(Based on full-time employment)</i> </p>	3. <u>Tour of Duty</u> <p style="text-align: center;"> Days M-F </p>	4. <u>Duty Station</u> <p style="text-align: center;"> Mental Health Division, Portland VA Medical Center </p>
5. <u>Type & Number of Vacancies</u> <p style="text-align: center;"> Permanent 1 Full-time positions </p>	6. <u>Contact</u> <p style="text-align: center;"> Human Resources Assistant 503-273-5236 </p>	7. <u>Opening Date</u> <p style="text-align: center;">3/18/2010</p>	8. <u>Closing Date</u> <p style="text-align: center;">4/1/2010</p>

WHO MAY APPLY TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Career or career conditional employees and permanent Title 38 employees of the Portland VA Medical Center eligible under the interchange Agreement. Included are permanent employees of the Willamette National Cemetery, Regional Office, Veterans Outreach Center and Veteran's Canteen.

MAJOR DUTIES:

The GS-12 Veteran's Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO) has clinical social work responsibilities that are primarily conducted in community settings. The VJO has three areas of focus: local criminal justice courts, local police departments and local county jails. The VJO serves as a member of the Mental Health Program and is an interregional part of the Substance Abuse Treatment Program, PCT and Mental Health teams as these programs are the primary areas utilized in the criminal justice system. This position works collaboratively with the Homeless Program and other clinical teams to promote seamless transition for eligible Veterans into VA services. The VJO will provide time limited case management during the transition process to appropriate services. The VJO has a Masters Degree in Social Work granted by graduate program fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Incumbents may be the sole practitioner in this specialty at the facility and requiring the ability to work independently. They develop policies and procedures for the program operation and prepare reports and statistics for the facility, VISN, and national use. They manage the daily operations of the program and direct patient care services in the program area. They may be responsible for the program's budget and various control points assigned to the program within the assigned areas. The incumbent manages and controls the use of data related to these programs regarding day to day functioning and program evaluation to include assessment and improvement of the program effectiveness and ongoing identification of the special needs of this population in their community. In conjunction with Mental Health Executive Council, plans, organizes and directs administrative, operational, veteran and personnel activities in this service.

THIS POSITION IS IN THE BARGAINING UNIT

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Eligibility: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Qualification Standards Handbook and VA Handbook 5005, Pt II, Appendix G39 for GS-185 series applies and may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Service office.

Basic Requirements:

- **Education:** Have a master's degree in social work (MSW) from a school of social work fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Graduates of schools of social work that are in candidacy status do not meet this requirement until the school of social work is fully accredited. A doctoral degree in social work *may not* be substituted for the master's degree in social work.
- **Licensure:** Persons hired or reassigned to social worker positions in the GS-185 series in VHA must be licensed or certified by a state to independently practice social work at the master's degree level. Current state requirements may be found on the OHRM website.
- **Exception.** VHA may waive the licensure or certification requirement for persons who are otherwise qualified, pending completion of state prerequisites for licensure/certification examinations. This exception only applies up to the full performance level. For grade levels above the full performance level, the candidate must be licensed or certified. For grades below or at the full performance level, VHA social workers who are not licensed or certified at the time of appointment must become licensed or certified at the independent, master's level within 3 years of their appointment as a social worker. Most states require 2 years of post-MSW experience as a pre-requisite to taking the licensure/certification exam, and VHA gives social workers one additional year to pass the licensure/certification exam. It is VHA policy that a VHA social worker who does not yet have a license that allows independent practice

(Continued on next page)

must be supervised by a licensed independent practitioner of the same discipline who is a VA staff member and who has access to the electronic health record.

- **Failure to Obtain License or Certification.** In all cases, social workers must actively pursue meeting state prerequisites for licensure or certification starting from the date of their appointment. At the time of appointment, the supervisor, Chief Social Work or Social Work Executive will provide the unlicensed/uncertified social worker with the written requirements for licensure or certification, including the time by which the license or certification must be obtained and the consequences for not becoming licensed or certified by the deadline. Failure to become licensed or certified within the proscribed amount of time will result in removal from the GS-185 social work series and **may** result in termination of employment.
- **Loss of Licensure or Certification.** Once licensed or certified, social workers must maintain a full, valid and unrestricted independent license or certification to remain qualified for employment. Loss of licensure or certification **will** result in removal from the GS-185 social work series and **may** result in termination of employment.

Experience, Education and Licensure. Senior Social Workers have experience that demonstrates possession of advanced practice skills and judgment. At least two years should be in an area of specialized social work practice. Senior social workers must be licensed or certified by a state at the advanced practice level which included an ASWB advanced generalist or clinical examination, unless they are grandfathered by the state in which they are licensed to practice at the advanced practice level. Senior social workers may have certification or other post-masters training from a nationally recognized professional organization or university that includes a defined curriculum/course of study and internship or equivalent supervised professional experience in a specialty (see paragraph 3a(c)). In addition, the candidate must demonstrate the professional KSAs in subparagraph (b) below.

BASIS OF RATING: (Knowledge, Skills, Abilities (KSAs))

Applicants must demonstrate through their experience or education that they possess the following published KSAs(from VA Handbook 5005) for the grade at which they wish to apply (and grades below that grade if applicable):

1. Advanced knowledge of and mastery of theories and modalities used in the specialized treatment of complex physical or mental illness. Ability to incorporate complex multiple causation in differential diagnosis and treatment of veteran patients, including making psychosocial and psychiatric diagnoses within approved clinical privileges or scope of practice. Ability to determine priority for services and provide specialized treatment services.
2. Advanced and expert skill in a range of specialized interventions and treatment modalities used in specialty treatment programs or with special patient populations. This includes individual, group, and/or family counseling or psychotherapy and advanced level psychosocial and/or case management interventions used in the treatment of veterans with polytraumatic injuries, spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, visual impairment, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc.
3. Advanced knowledge and expert skill in developing and implementing methods for measuring effectiveness of social work practice and services in the specialty area, utilizing outcome evaluations to improve treatment services. Ability to coordinate the delivery of specialized psychosocial services and programs. Ability to design system changes based on empirical findings.
4. Ability to provide subject matter consultation to colleagues and students on the psychosocial treatment of patients treated in the specialty area, rendering professional opinions based on experience and expertise and role modeling effective social work practice skills. Ability to teach and mentor staff and students in the specialty area of practice and to provide supervision for licensure or for specialty certifications.
5. Ability to expand clinical knowledge in the profession, demonstrating innovation in the creation of new models of psychosocial assessment or intervention to identify and address specialized clinical needs. Ability to write policies, procedures, and/or practice guidelines pertaining to the specialty population or specialty treatment program.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

This is an Excepted Appointment. Excepted service positions have been excepted from the requirements of the competitive service by law, Executive Order, or by OPM regulation (5 USC 2103 and 5 CFR part 213). Public law No. 108-170 converts this occupational series from the competitive civil service to the Hybrid Title 38 employment system.

Applicants without prior federal service will be appointed at step one of the grade

Although the duty station is shown in this announcement, it may be necessary to utilize the selected person's services at a different location within the Portland VA Medical Center commuting area if conditions require it in the future

Under Executive Order 11935, only United States citizens and nationals (residents of American Samoa and Swains Island) may compete for civil service jobs. Agencies are permitted to hire noncitizens only in very limited circumstances where there are no qualified citizens available for the position.

All information submitted to this VA Medical Center is subject to verification by VetPro.

If you are a male born after December 31, 1959, and are at least 18 years of age, civil service employment law (5 U.S.C. 3328) requires that you must register with the Selective Service System, unless you meet certain exemptions.

A security clearance and a favorable suitability determination are required. Misconduct in prior employment, criminal, dishonest or disgraceful conduct, habitual use of intoxicating beverages, abuse of narcotics, drugs or other controlled substances, or reasonable doubt of loyalty to the United States are examples of reasons an offer of employment may

be denied.

Public transit subsidy benefits are available. Carpooling assistance is provided. However, single occupancy parking is limited on main Portland campus.

Eligible employees may be non-competitively reassigned to fill this position as an exception to merit promotion.

Applicants selected for this position may be appointed to a temporary appointment, NTE 13 months, pending completion of boarding process.

A drug test may be required for an applicant who is tentatively selected.

A pre-employment physical examination will be required for an applicant who is tentatively selected.

Applicants appointed to direct patient care positions must be proficient in spoken and written English as required by 38 USC 7402(d) and 7407(d).

[VACareers](#) has descriptions of all Title 38 Jobs and their benefits.

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

It is the policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs that all Federal wage and salary payments are paid to employees by Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT).

HOW TO APPLY:

Portland VAMC Permanent Employees must submit:

1. [VAF 4078, Application for Promotion or Reassignment](#)
2. MPQ – Merit Promotion Questionnaire is optional but recommended if you have qualifications pertaining to the position applied for but are not in your OPF

Other VA Permanent Employees must submit:

1. [VA Form 10-2850c, Application for Associated Health Occupations](#)
2. Resume or CV
3. [OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment](#)
4. Latest SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action
5. Copies of all current licenses
6. Latest performance appraisal

Non VA Applicants must submit:

1. [VA Form 10-2850c, Application for Associated Health Occupations](#)
2. Resume or CV
3. [OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment](#) (January 2001 version or later).
4. Veterans Preference:
 - a. DD-214, Military Discharge Paper (member copy #4 for July 1979 or later editions) (For 5 Point Veteran's Preference).
 - b. [SF-15, Application for 10-point Veteran Preference](#) (December 2004 version or later)
 - c. VA letter of service-connected disability rating dated 1991 or later.
5. SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action (if applying as a current or former federal employee).
6. Copies of all current licenses, registrations, or certifications (applicable to job).
7. **A copy of your college transcripts**

All application packets must be received in Human Resources by Close of Business (COB) on 4/1/2010.

Application forms may be obtained in Human Resources Office or on our external website,

<http://www.visn20.med.va.gov/Portland/mc/hr>

Applications may be mailed to:

Portland VA Medical Center, P4HRMS

Attn: T38-10-0125-PS

PO Box 1034

Portland, OR 97207

Or brought in person to:

Portland VA Medical Center

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Rd

Building 16, Room 300

Portland OR 97239

APPLICANT'S PLEASE NOTE:

- Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with a positive education requirement.). Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>. All education claimed by applicants will be verified by the appointing agency accordingly.
- Foreign Education: To receive credit for education completed outside the United States, you must show proof that the education has been submitted to a private organization that specializes in the interpretation of foreign educational credentials and such education has been deemed at least equivalent to that gained in conventional U.S. education programs.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY:

- It is the applicant's responsibility to submit documentation to support his/her application for this position. Applicant is responsible for ensuring that all experience, formal training, award recognition, etc. are documented in the application package. Experience may include voluntary or other non-paid experience in the appropriate field. If you feel that your training record contains information pertinent to your qualifications, then you must submit a printed copy of your training record with your application package. Your training record will become part of the specific vacancy file and will not be filed in Official Personnel Folder. Human Resources Management Division will not photocopy any application material; applicants are responsible for making photocopies prior to submitting applications.
- **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure timely receipt of the application, regardless of the method used for submission. The VA assumes no responsibility for the late delivery of applications (i.e. postal service delays). The Portland VA Medical Center will not accept FAX, or emailed applications or applications in a US government envelope.**