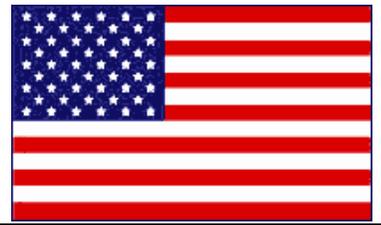




PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER

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> T-08-248-JB	2. <u>Title, Series, Grade, Salary</u> Health Technician (Peer Support Technician) (70004A) GS-640-6 \$34,756 to \$45,185 per annum (Based on full-time employment)	3. <u>Tour of Duty</u> Days M-F	4. <u>Duty Station</u> Mental Health Division, Portland Division
5. <u>Type & Number of Vacancies</u> Temporary NTE 1 year & 1 day 1 Full-time position	6. <u>Contact</u> Human Resources Assistant 503-273-5236	7. <u>Opening Date</u> 2/29/08	8. <u>Closing Date</u> Until Filled 1st consideration date 3/6/08

WHO MAY APPLY TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Any US Citizen

MAJOR DUTIES:

The Peer Support Technician (PST) is an active member of the Day Treatment and IPCC teams and provides peer support services to veterans with serious mental illnesses in the Mental Health and Neurosciences Division. Under supervision of the Director of Day Treatment and IPCC the PST will function as a role model to peers; exhibiting competency in personal recovery and use of coping skills; serve as a consumer advocate, providing consumer information and peer support for veterans in outpatient and inpatient settings. The PST performs a wide range of tasks to assist peers of all ages, from young adult to old age, in regaining independence within the community and mastery over their own recovery process. Recovery resources such as booklets, tapes, pamphlets and other written materials will be utilized by the Peer Support Specialist in the provision of services.

THIS POSITION IS IN THE BARGAINING UNIT

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Eligibility: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Qualification Standards Handbook for GS-640 series applies and may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Service office.

Specialized Experience: One (1) year experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's) to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the GS-5 level.

Substitution of Education for Specialized Experience: Graduate education or an internship meets the specialized experience required above GS-5 *only* in those instances where it is directly related to the work of the position. If using education as a substitute for experience, please submit a copy of your college transcripts with application packet.

The preferred candidate will have lived experience in recovery from mental illness.

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

On a separate sheet of paper, provide a written, detailed response to each of the KSAs. Failure to respond to rating factors will result in applicant not being referred for the position:

1. Knowledge of the recovery process and ability to facilitate recovery dialogs.
2. Knowledge and skills to teach and engage in problem-solving and conflict resolution strategies.
3. Knowledge of community resources to facilitate community integration.
4. Knowledge of serious mental illness diagnoses, signs and symptoms including substance abuse disorders and current trends and developments in the mental health field.
5. Ability to teach self-advocacy through role-playing, role-modeling techniques, to include role-modeling personal experiences to assist others in their recovery process.
6. Ability to communicate orally and in writing with wide variety of individuals (people experiencing a variety of psychiatric illnesses, family members, professional staff, and community agencies, etc.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

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

(Continued on next page)

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.

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).

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:

US Citizens must submit:

1. [OF 612, Optional Application for Federal Employment](#) (attach additional sheets of paper if needed for additional job experience (in same format as application)), or Resume. (Please refer to [OF-510, Applying for a Federal Job](#) on the USA jobs website (<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>) for information on how to apply with a resume instead of OF-612)
2. [OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment](#) (January 2001 version or later).
3. 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.
4. SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action (if applying as a current or former federal employee).
5. Narrative statement relating to all of the KSAs. Candidates **must** submit a narrative statement on a separate page(s) with specific responses to all of the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) in this announcement. Failure to submit your narrative response to all of the KSAs will result in the applicant not being referred for the position.
6. A copy of your college transcripts (Optional unless education is required).

All application packets must be received in Human Resources by Close of Business (COB) on 3/6/08 for 1st consideration. This position is open until filled. 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: T-08-248-JB
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.

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.**