

## ValleyWorks

### Career Center:

**Your local employment connection in the Merrimack Valley**

### We Make Your

### Work-Related Needs Easier!

- Assist in making informed decisions about work
- Build knowledge about work incentives for eligible individuals
- Connect individuals with employment service professionals at the ValleyWorks Career Centers in Lawrence and Haverhill



*The ValleyWorks Career Center (VWCC) is a workforce development collaboration of the Department of Training and Development and the Division of Career Services. Chartered by the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board (MVWIB), the VWCC is funded through the Workforce Investment Act; the Commonwealth Corporation; the Division of Career Services; the Department of Workforce Development; the Department of Transitional Assistance; the Department of Labor; the Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A federal- and state-funded center, the VWCC is designed to provide comprehensive services to job seekers and employers of the Merrimack Valley. The VWCC is an Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

## Facts about the employment of persons with Disabilities

- 19.3% of the US population have some form of disability with an expectation that one in five Americans being affected by disability in their lifetime. ( Census 2000 )
- 32% of Americans with disabilities are working. Two-thirds of the unemployed workers would like to be working.
- Turnover rates for workers with disabilities are five to six times lower than the rates of other workers. ( Supported Employment Infolines )
- Seventy-one percent of accommodations for workers with disabilities cost \$500 or less, with 20 percent costing nothing. ( Job Accommodations Network)

## Resources

**ValleyWorks Career Center:** One-stop career center for all of your job seeking needs

[www.valleyworks.CC](http://www.valleyworks.CC)

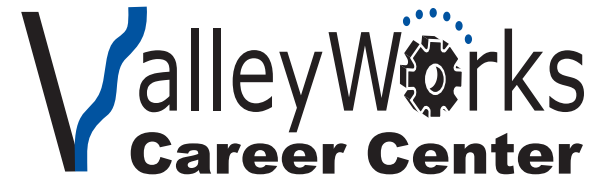
**Job Accommodation Network:** free assistance with accommodation needs/requests.

[www.jan.wvu.edu](http://www.jan.wvu.edu)

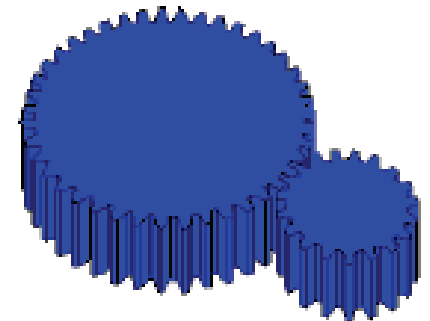
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts:** Access varied departments specific to your needs.

[www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

**Other resources available upon request**



**DISABILITY PROGRAM NAVIGATOR:  
YOUR GUIDE TO  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
AND SELF-ADVOCACY**



*Developing Tomorrow's Workforce*



**ValleyWorks  
Career Center  
Disability Program  
Navigator:**

***Your Career Center contact for  
health, disability or other issues  
presenting barriers to your  
success***

**What is the role of the  
Program Navigator??**

The Disability Program Navigator is funded through federal and state grants as a demonstration program to serve as a resource coordinator through the one-stop career centers to assist individuals with disabilities navigate the various programs and resources throughout the state.

- Assist individuals with disabilities to understand their rights relative to employment.
- Educate job seekers to reasonable accommodations that maximize their qualifications and improve their ability to gain, return to and retain employment.
- Increase employment opportunities to individuals through coordination of services, promoting program awareness and enhancing a seamless delivery system with community service providers.
- Provide referrals and information for benefit planning, child care, housing, transportation, medical, employment and other services.
- Serve as a resource and trainer to the one-stop career center and other community-based organizations relative to employment of persons with disabilities

**What Can the Navigator Do?**

Assist individuals with disabilities to understand how they can work full time while earning their SSI, SSDI and other benefits.

Provide information and training about resources, assistive technology, disclosure and accommodations.

Clarify and demystify your rights in seeking, maintaining and performing work.

Increase employer awareness and promote employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through coordinated outreach.

Provide accurate information regarding benefits: securing, maintaining and the affect of employment.

*Developing Tomorrow's Workforce*

**Questions you may have:**

**What about Training?** Varied partners offer training opportunities that prepare individuals with disabilities for employment.

**Where do I go?** Providing the Navigator information about your unique situation aids in identifying how adaptive technology and accommodations may remove barriers and increase your qualifications for employment.

**How do I...?** ValleyWorks and its Partners have multiple resources to help you reach your employment goals. The Navigator is available to identify and direct you to the most appropriate services to meet your needs

**Contact Information:**

The Program Navigator, Terrence Throwe, is located at either office of  
**ValleyWorks Career Center**

**Lawrence**

Heritage Place  
439 South Union St.  
Bldg. 2, Suite 106  
Lawrence, MA 01843  
Voice: (978) 722-7000  
TDD/TTY: (978) 722-7088

**Haverhill**

192 Merrimack St  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
Voice: (978) 469-7800  
TDD/TTY: (978) 469-7859

ValleyWorks is the one-stop career center for the Lower Merrimack Valley and partners with the following organizations:

- *Mass Rehab Commission*
- *Mass Commission for the Blind*
- *Dept. of Mental Health*
- *Dept. of Mental Retardation*
- *Northern Essex Community College*
- *Department of Education*
- *Local service providers*

