



Apply Today:

VAcareers.va.gov**Job Title:** Recreation Therapist**Department:** Department Of Veterans Affairs**Agency:** Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration**Job Announcement Number:** ANS-16-SRC-1626655-BU**SALARY RANGE:**

\$48,968.00 to \$63,654.00 / Per Year

OPEN PERIOD:

Thursday, February 18, 2016 to Thursday, March 3, 2016

SERIES & GRADE:

GS-0638-09

POSITION INFORMATION:

Full Time - Permanent

DUTY LOCATIONS:

1 vacancy in the following location:

Fargo, ND

WHO MAY APPLY:

United States Citizens

SECURITY CLEARANCE:

Other

SUPERVISORY STATUS:

No

JOB SUMMARY:**Vacancy ID:** 1626655

OUR MISSION: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise – "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" – by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans. How would you like to become a part of a team providing compassionate care to Veterans?

The **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** needs employees who possess the energy, compassion, and commitment to serve those who served our Country. Whatever the job title, every position in VA will give you a chance to make a meaningful and personal contribution to the lives of truly special and deserving people - our Veterans. VA professionals feel good about their careers and their ability to balance work and home life. VA offers generous paid time off and a variety of predictable and flexible scheduling opportunities. Working for VA is one of the most emotionally satisfying and professionally rewarding ways to dedicate the best within you to your Country's service.

If you are transitioning from the military or a Veteran already, we invite you to explore the benefits of continuing your career at the VA. **The VA is committed to hiring Veterans.** The VA is much more than just another employer. It is an honorable, open and welcoming community of those who care. Gratitude is our motivation and service is our mission.

The VA has adopted Core Values and Characteristics that apply universally across the Department. The five Core Values define "who we are," our culture, and how we care for Veterans, their families and other beneficiaries. The Values are **Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence ("**I CARE**").**

America's Veterans need you! To find out more, go to <http://www.va.gov/jobs/>
(<http://www.va.gov/jobs/>).

TRAVEL REQUIRED

- Not Required

RELOCATION AUTHORIZED

- No

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a U.S. citizen to apply for this job.
- You may be required to serve a probationary period.
- Background investigation may be required.
- Selective Service Registration is required for males born after 12/31/1959

DUTIES:

This position is located within the Extended Care & Rehabilitation Service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Fargo, ND. The Recreation Therapist provides comprehensive therapeutic recreation specialty rehabilitation services to Veterans in their homes or at the facility, assisting veterans to obtain optimum levels of functioning while maintaining independence in the community.

Major duties and responsibilities include:

- Planning and conducting a recreation therapy program for inpatients and outpatients;
- Interpreting and administering provider's recreation therapy prescription utilizing the modality of recreation therapy with individual/groups of patients having physical, emotional, and/or social disabilities;
- Completing medical record documentation using approved assessment procedures to produce a recreation therapy treatment plan based on multidisciplinary treatment goals;
- Serving as a member of the multidisciplinary treatment team, contributing verbal and written reports on patient progress, and recommending treatment objectives;
- Planning and carrying out treatment programs with geriatric, intermediate medicine, and psychiatric inpatients and/or outpatients'

- Conducting ongoing evaluation of therapy results and modifying, adjusting, and augmenting treatment plans as indicated by each patient's response and progress, considering each patient's physical, emotional, mental and social limitations, needs, skills, aptitudes and interests, and
- Performing other related duties as assigned.

WORK SCHEDULE: 40 hours per week, 12:00pm to 8:30pm AND 8:00am to 4:30pm - to include some weekends and holidays.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

To qualify for this position, you must meet the following:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:

In accordance with 38 U.S.C. 7402(d), No person shall serve in direct patient care positions unless they are proficient in basic written and spoken English. You must be proficient in basic written and spoken English in order to meet the requirements of this position.

-AND-

BASIC REQUIREMENT

EDUCATION: (COPY OF TRANSCRIPT REQUIRED)

Degree: recreational therapy or in a creative arts therapy field (art therapy, dance therapy, music therapy, or psychodrama); or a major in an appropriate subject-matter field with therapeutic emphasis or concentration. Your transcripts must clearly indicate the therapeutic emphasis or concentration. You may also submit an official statement from the school, along with your unofficial transcripts, verifying the emphasis or concentration.

NOTE: Failure to submit your transcripts will result in non-consideration.

-AND-

In addition to the basic requirements listed above, you must also meet the experience requirements listed below:

EXPERIENCE:

Candidates must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level in Federal Service. Specialized experience is defined as experience that has provided you with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of a Recreation Therapist.

One year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level in federal service. Qualifying specialized experience includes: assessing patients for recreational therapeutic needs; administering tests and evaluations to patients to develop, plan and implement therapeutic treatment programs; planning activities to meet therapeutic objectives; administering therapeutic activities; and documenting progress in medical records. NOTE: Experience in activities or programs that did not require application of a knowledge of the concepts, principles and practices or recreational therapy or one of the creative arts therapy specializations covered by this standard and that did not involve the use of therapeutic approaches to maintain the physical and/or mental health or to achieve the physical and/or mental rehabilitation of persons (e.g., Outdoor Recreation Specialist, Commercial Recreation Leader, Vocational Counselor or other diversionary-type recreation specialist positions) is not qualifying for this series.

-OR-

SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR EXPERIENCE: (COPY OF TRANSCRIPT REQUIRED)

Two (2) years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a master's degree or master's or equivalent graduate degree with a major field of study directly related to recreation therapy. This education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university.

NOTE: One year of full-time graduate education is considered to be the number of credit hours that the school attended has determined to represent 1 year of full-time study. If that number cannot be obtained from the school; 18 semester hours should be considered an academic year of graduate study. Part-time graduate education is creditable in accordance with its relationship to a year of full-time study at the school attended.

-OR-

COMBINING EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: (COPY OF TRANSCRIPTS REQUIRED)

Equivalent combinations of experience and education as described above to meet the total requirements for this position. This education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university.

In addition to the requirements above, you will be rated on the following Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other characteristics (KSAOs) as part of the assessment questionnaire for this position.

1. Knowledge of the theories, principles, concepts, techniques, and skills of recreation therapy.
2. Ability to assess patient aptitudes, interests, and needs.
3. Skill in performing the work of a recreation therapist.
4. Skill in evaluating and adjusting treatment.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: In some assignments, the work involves regular and recurring physical exertion such as prolonged walking or standing, bending, moderately heavy lifting or moving of equipment, positioning severely disabled patients and assisting patients with mobility. Tasks can include climbing, lifting, pushing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching and crawling. Gross and fine motor dexterity is required. This work requires specific, common physical characteristics and abilities, such as above average agility and dexterity.

For more information on these qualification standards, please visit the United States Office of Personnel Management's website at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications> (<http://www.opm.gov/qualifications>).

IN DESCRIBING YOUR EXPERIENCE, PLEASE BE CLEAR AND SPECIFIC. WE WILL NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING YOUR EXPERIENCE. If your resume does not support your questionnaire answers, we will not allow credit for your response(s).

Note: A full year of work is considered to be 35-40 hours of work per week. Part-time experience will be credited on the basis of time actually spent in appropriate activities. Applicants wishing to receive credit for such experience must indicate clearly the nature of their duties and responsibilities in each position and the number of hours a week spent in such employment.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community; student; social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

APPLICANTS 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. Please refer to this checklist (<http://www.va.gov/OHRM/joblistings/applicantchecklist-DEU.doc>) to ensure proper accreditation and for foreign education requirements.

Veteran's Preference: When applying for Federal jobs, eligible veterans should claim preference on the Occupational Questionnaire in the section provided and provide a legible copy of DD-214(s) showing all dates of service as well as character of service (honorable, general, etc.). Additionally, veterans with service-connected disability of 10% or more must also submit a copy of their official statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or from a branch of the Armed Forces, certifying their service-connected disability and/or their receipt of compensation for service-connected disability. If the military member is within 120 days of separation and does not yet have a DD214, the member may instead submit any written document from the armed forces that certifies the service member is expected to be discharged or released from active duty service in the armed forces under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is signed.

Veterans with service-connected disability of less than 10%, non service-connected disability, and Purple Heart recipients, as-well-as those claiming derived preference for a spouse, widow or widower, or natural mother, should refer to and submit a completed "SF15, "Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference (http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF15.pdf) , " (go to http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF15.pdf (http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF15.pdf)) and required documentation with your application materials. For more information on Veterans' Preference, please visit <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/veterans.aspx> (<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/veterans.aspx>).

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

Applicants will be ranked based on four quality groups, as follows:

- Best qualified - applicants possessing experience that substantially exceeds the minimum qualifications of the position including all selective factors, and who are highly proficient in all requirements of the job and can perform effectively in the position;
- Highly qualified - applicants possessing experience that exceeds the minimum qualifications of the position including all selective factors, and who are proficient in most of the requirements of the job;
- Well qualified - applicants possessing experience that meets the minimum qualifications of the position including all selective factors, and who are proficient in some, but not all, of the requirements of the job; and
- Qualified - applicants possessing experience and/or education that meets the minimum qualifications of the position including all selective factors.

After the vacancy announcement closes, reviewed applications are evaluated against the questionnaire responses and placed in the appropriate quality group. Qualified veterans will be afforded preference by being placed at the top of the appropriate quality

group. The best qualified group is the first to be referred to the hiring facility for further consideration and possible interview. The remaining groups may be referred based on the number of applicants available.

BENEFITS:

VA offers a comprehensive benefits package. This link provides is an overview of the benefits currently offered: <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/why-choose-va/benefits/index.asp> (<http://www.vacareers.va.gov/why-choose-va/benefits/index.asp>).

VA supports the use of telework as a way to help attract and retain talented individuals in public service, increase worker productivity, and better prepare the agency to operate during emergencies. This position may be authorized for telework. Telework eligibility will be discussed during the interview process.

The Federal Government has special excepted appointing authorities for persons with qualifying disabilities, such as Schedule A. Specific information can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/disability/peoplewithdisabilities.asp> (<http://www.opm.gov/disability/peoplewithdisabilities.asp>). **IMPORTANT:** If you would like to receive consideration as a Schedule A applicant, you must contact the Human Resources office at the facility where this position is located at (701)232-3241.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Veterans and Transitioning Service Members: Please visit the VA for Vets (<http://vaforvets.va.gov/>) site for career-search tools for Veterans seeking employment at VA, career development services for our existing Veterans, and coaching and reintegration support for military service members.

The **Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP)** and **Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP)** provide eligible displaced Federal competitive service employees with selection priority over other candidates for competitive service vacancies. To be qualified you must submit appropriate documentation (a copy of the agency notice, your most recent performance rating, and your most recent SF-50 noting current position, grade level, and duty location) and be found well-qualified (have a final rating of 85 or more) for this vacancy. Information about ICTAP and CTAP eligibility is on OPM's Career Transition Resources website at <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/> (<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/>).

VA may offer newly-appointed Federal employees credit for their job-related non-federal experience or active duty uniformed military service. This credited service can be used in determining the rate at which they earn annual leave. Such credit must be requested and approved prior to the appointment date and is not guaranteed.

It is the policy of the VA to not deny employment to those that have faced financial hardships or periods of unemployment.

This job opportunity announcement may be used to fill additional vacancies.

HOW TO APPLY:

All applicants are encouraged to apply online.

To apply for this position, you must complete the View Occupational Questionnaire (<https://ApplicationManager.gov/Questionnaire.aspx?ID=5646775&PreviewType=Questionnaire>) and submit the documentation specified in the Required Documents section below.

The complete application package must be submitted by 11:59 PM (EST) on Thursday, March 03, 2016 to receive consideration.

1. To begin, **click Apply Online** to create a USAJOBS account or log in to your existing account. Follow the prompts to select your USAJOBS resume and/or other supporting documents and complete the occupational questionnaire.
2. Click **Submit My Answers** to submit your application package.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure your responses and appropriate documentation is submitted prior to the closing date. To verify your application is complete, log into your USAJOBS account, <https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login> (<https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login>), select the Application Status link and then select the more information link for this position. The Details page will display the status of your application, the documentation received and processed, and any correspondence the agency has sent related to this application. Your uploaded documents may take several hours to clear the virus scan process.

To return to an incomplete application, log into your USAJOBS account and click Update Application in the vacancy announcement. You must re-select your resume and/or other documents from your USAJOBS account or your application will be incomplete. (Emailed applications will not be accepted.)

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The following documents are required:

1. Resume
2. Responses to the Occupational Questionnaire
3. Other documents - use this checklist (<http://www.va.gov/OHRM/joblistings/applicantchecklist.pdf>) to make sure you have included other documents required for your application, such as a copy of your transcript (if using education to qualify), documentation to support Veterans Preference claims, or ICTAP/CTAP documentation (for displaced Federal employees). You will not be contacted for additional information.

Faxing Applications or Supporting Documents: You are encouraged to apply online. Applying online will allow you to review and track the status of your application. If you are unable to apply online or unable to upload your supporting documents to your online application, follow the directions located at the following site: Fax Options (<http://www.va.gov/OHRM/joblistings/FaxOptions.doc>). The Vacancy ID of the job opportunity announcement is 1626655.

NOTE: If you applied online and your application is complete, do not fax the paper application (1203-FX) as this will overwrite your prior online responses and may result in you being found ineligible.

AGENCY CONTACT INFO:

VHA Nationwide DEU
Phone: (844)456-5208
Email: CAVHS.DEU@VA.GOV

Agency Information:

FARGO VAMC
PLEASE DO NOT MAIL APPLICATIONS
APPLY ONLINE OR FAX ONLY
Thank You, AR
00000
USA

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:

After we receive application packages (including all required documents) and the vacancy announcement closes, we will review applications to ensure qualification and eligibility requirements are met. During our review, if your résumé and application package do not support your questionnaire answers, we will adjust your rating accordingly. After the review is complete, a referral certificate(s) is issued and applicants will be notified of their status by email (if provided); otherwise, applicants will receive a notification letter via the U.S. Postal Service. Referred applicants will be notified as such and may be contacted directly by the hiring office for an interview. All referred applicants receive a final notification once a selection decision has been made.

You may check the status of your application at any time by logging into your USAJOBS account and clicking on "Application Status." For a more detailed update of your status, click on "more information." Information regarding

applicant notification points

(https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Why_have_I_not_heard_anything_back_after_applying%3F_How_long_does_it_take_to_hear_from_an_agency_after_I_have_applied%3F) can be found in the USAJobs Resource Center.

Control Number: 429688200

Close Print

[Back to top \(TopofPage\)](#)