

Veterans Treatment and Assistance Court Mentoring Program

Job Title: Veteran Mentor - Volunteer **Location:** Lake County Adult Probation - Waukegan, IL

Time Commitment:

- At least one face to face contact with veteran mentee per month
- Attend court appearances as a means of support to the veteran mentee (*preferred*). Court takes place on the first and third Friday of the month.
- Attend special events (picnics, sporting events, volunteer events, etc.)
- Attend monthly mentor meetings (Third Wednesday of the month)
- Commit to being a mentor for at least one year

Description: VTAC is a collaboration of numerous agencies: the Court, the VA, the Public Defender's Office, Lake County Bar Association, Adult Probation Services, the State Attorney's Office, the Health Department, Nicasa, the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission, volunteers and other community partners. These agencies work together to provide veteran offenders services to address their needs through treatment interventions, rather than incarceration.

The VTAC Court and other veteran courts across the nation have come to realize that veterans are more likely to respond more favorably with another veteran than with others who did not have similar experiences. As a result, the VTAC believes that peer mentors are an essential component of the team. It is anticipated that active, supportive relationships developed and maintained throughout the program, between veteran defendants and peers, would increase the likelihood that the veteran will remain in compliance with treatment and court conditions. The lasting effects thereby improve a veteran's chances for sobriety, stability and law-abiding behavior.

Simply said, it is the mission of the mentoring program to support the veterans through their readjustment to civilian life, assist the veteran navigate through the court, treatment and VA systems, and act as a mentor, advocate and ally.

Requirements:

- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Must pass a background check
- Must be professional and comfortable working with diverse groups
- Must be reliable and consistent
- Possess excellent relational and interpersonal skills
- Must be supportive and nurturing
- Must maintain all confidentiality standards/policies discussed during training
- Possess the ability to respect the privacy and rights of clients

To learn more or apply, please contact the College of Lake County Volunteer Coordinator, Cristian Gonzalez, at 847-543-2748 or at cgonzalez35@clcillinois.edu.

For more information, visit <https://www.clcillinois.edu/judicialvolunteer>.