

**Tomah VAMC  
Compensated Work Therapy Transitional Residency Program  
La Crosse Home Summary**

**Background:** David and Barbra Erickson are in the process of donating their home at 3120 Farnam Street in La Crosse to the Tomah VA Medical Center. The home will serve as the residence for up to 10 Veterans participating in the Medical Center's Compensated Work Therapy Transitional Residence program.

**Program Description:** The Transitional Residence (TR) program provides long-term rehabilitation services to qualified Veterans, each of whom will have an individualized rehabilitation plan, which includes vocational placement. Veterans residing in the TR program are expected to participate in a variety of clinical activities designed to help them attain their rehabilitation goals. Therapeutic and vocational activities take place either in the residence, or preferably in the community. The TR program provides a bridge between hospitalization, intensive outpatient treatment, and successful community living. Living in the TR provides Veterans with opportunities to develop and practice responsible, positive life skills as they prepare for community reintegration. The program requires 100% sobriety. Veterans in the TR program are employed.

The TR program assists Veterans to:

- Remain sober and/or improve their mental health status in a supportive residential setting.
- Manage their life in an independent and productive manner.
- Receive skills training such as job readiness and money management.
- Learn independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning, and home maintenance.
- Develop good work habits.
- Learn, or enhance anger and stress management techniques and problem-solving skills.
- Identify and utilize support systems such as AA/NA, sponsors, and community resources.

**Program Criteria:** As a federal entity, the VA program is not state licensed or inspected. The TR program operates under the VA Handbook 1162.02 "Mental Health Residential Treatment Program", section 34 (<https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=2>).

**Accreditation and Inspections:** The TR program is a component in two national accreditation surveys for the Medical Center. It is inspected under the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) (last inspection in March 2017) and the Joint Commission (last inspection in May 2018). The program has additional oversight from local leadership, Network and National Program Offices and the VA Office of the Inspector General.

**Staffing:** During the work week, a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist will be at the home providing classes and individual training. During the off hours and weekend, a support staff will be at the home for safety and oversight. Medical and mental health support can be provided from the VA River Valley Clinic located less than 1 mile away or from the Tomah VA main campus. Residents can be transferred back to the Tomah Campus if needed.

**Space Criteria:** The home has 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms and a larger community area (floorplan attached). To accommodate 10 Veterans, there will be a mixture of private and shared bedrooms. Criteria for room size is provided in VA Space Planning Criteria, chapter 106, section 5 "Space Criteria" (<https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/space/spChapter106.pdf>) and in the VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management Design Guide (<https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/dguide/dgmh.pdf>).

**Accessibility:** The home was designed for the care of the family's disabled son, so it is handicap accessible.

**Parking:** It is estimated that, on average, 4 residents may have personal vehicles. The plan is to utilize the garage and drive that will accommodate 4-5 vehicles. Street parking may be used for the 1 regular staff member, and periodically for visiting staff and family members. Currently staff at the River Valley clinic have parking permits at the lot across street. This is an option for resident vehicles if needed.

**Benefits:** The home in La Crosse provides significant advantages for the TR program. The TR program is currently located in a patient care building on the Tomah VAMC campus. Tomah is a town of approximately 10,000 residents with limited manufacturing, agricultural and other employment opportunities. Tomah has no daily public transportation other than local cabs and VA provided transport. The site in La Crosse would significantly increase employment opportunities, provide access to public transportation, and allow residents to live and function in a residential community. The location of the home is approximately 1 mile from the La Crosse CBOC providing ready access to medical and mental health care. The ability to place or transition residents to the La Crosse home has the potential to greatly improve the success of Veterans participating in the program.

**Points of Contact:** The following are points of contact for the TR program and proposal.

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