

## A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF HVRP AND AJC COLLABORATION

### One Veteran's Story

When Jamar Wright enrolled in HVRP at the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church – ZionHouse (Zion House), he wanted to build on his previous experience as a Medical Materiel Apprentice in the Air Force. He considered pursuing a career as a commercial driver, dental assistant, automotive technician, or a welder. ZionHouse capitalized on his work ethic and motivation, helping him pursue various job leads and opportunities and eventually finding him a job. When Jamar had to leave that job after a month for personal reasons, Zion House continued to work with him, restarting the reintegration process with a focus on finding the right opportunity.

As part of his participation in HVRP, Jamar was enrolled at the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance. It was there that he learned about a welding program funded by the Maryland Energy Administration and Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation. He received a scholarship from the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance to attend the 13-week course sponsored by Wor-Wic Community College, Arcon Welding Services, and Quality Staffing Services. Zion House provided Jamar with the equipment he needed to participate in the Arcon Welding Training Center training, as well as case management services to address his other needs. Jamar graduated in January 2019, and he continues to work with HVRP and the Lower Shore AJC to find meaningful employment in the welding field. Jamar Wright's story is just one example of the positive impact that HVRP/AJC coordination can have on the lives of veterans.



Jamar Wright with his welding training certificate



## BACKGROUND

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) grantees are required to enroll all participants in the public workforce system through their local American Job Center (AJC). HVRP grantees, AJC staff, and veteran participants sometimes question the purpose of dual enrollment based on a false perception that the services the two programs provide are duplicative. However, dual enrollment in both programs provides access to the broadest range of services for veterans experiencing homelessness. The goals of HVRP and the AJC are complementary: HVRP grantees

bring extensive knowledge and experience about working with homeless veterans and a focus on job placement, while the AJC provides access to additional resources, including training opportunities, supportive services, state vocational rehabilitation, integrated case management, and connection to employers and employment opportunities through the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER). Ideally, the two programs work in tandem to ensure the individual employment needs of each veteran are met.