I write a new *Tip of the Hat from CAP* as inspired rather than on a regular, quarterly schedule. The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to monitor Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. Simply put, CAP is the complaint department for VR clients. People call CAP to resolve concerns.

In that process, I talk a lot with VR counselors and administrators about services in Oklahoma. (If you have a VR case in another state or federal territory, you’ll have a local CAP in that area too.)

I’ve worked in Oklahoma CAP since August 18, 2012. People call with all kinds of concerns about their VR case. These clients give me insight into their thinking about work.

Occasionally a person knows what they want and the supports they need to do it. More often that person has not done a lot of thinking about what they want to do and has little understanding of the job market.

That’s what I’d like to talk with you about—the job market. Where will the demand occupations be in the next five years, and what skills will you need to do them? Workforce Oklahoma publishes a list of occupations which are in demand. They can also tell you how many jobs there are right now and project that number in the next three to five years.

If you’re thinking about going to work, you need to know the job market. That’s a piece of the puzzle which has long been overlooked. So let’s talk about the job market and specific jobs where you have a good chance to find employment.

In the Client Assistance Program we have begun to identify specific job titles which are hot in Oklahoma. We also look at what you’ll make, essential job functions and training you need.

We have posted eight jobs on our website that are important to employers:
• Automobile industry
• Dental hygienist
• Licensed practical nurse
• Customer service representative
• X-ray technician
• Machinist
• Medical billing and coding
• HVAC Technician

This is only the beginning. We will post more in-demand occupations and tell you job specifics—what training you’ll need and where to get it. If you don’t find anything interesting, call us at 405-522-6702. We’ll help you research.

Your VR case is built on the employment outcome you choose. It will only be as good as that choice realistically reflects your interests and abilities with a view of the job market.

Go to: https://www.ok.gov/odc/Career_Exploration,_Career_Clarity_and_Let’s_Make_a_Plan.html

Where do you fit in the job market, and how can you develop the skills that someone is willing to pay you real money for? Check us out, and see what you think.

The End