

## Success Stories: Vocational Rehabilitation



# Travis Telford



OCCUPATION:  
Commercial Truck Driver

VR COUNSELOR:  
Kate Hinchee, Northern Utah District

### VR PROVIDED SERVICES:

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Individualized Plan for Employment
- Mental Health Counseling
- Vocational Training
- Transportation Assistance
- Coordination with Adult Probation & Parole
- Coordination of Bonding Services

After being incarcerated for 23 years, Travis Telford applied for VR services in 2018. During those previous 23 years, society experienced significant technological changes. Travis did not believe he had any applicable job skills — he had never used a cell phone or the Internet. However, he had learned impulse control, coping skills and could “crochet up a storm.” His life experience in a harsh prison environment and the recent loss of his mother prepared him for something better upon release.

With the assistance of the Utah State Prison Re-Entry Team and the Prison In-Reach program, and as a condition of his parole, Travis was referred to VR services in Brigham City, Utah. Travis applied for Medicaid and his VR counselor, Kate Hinchee, coordinated mental health and substance abuse restoration services with Adult Probation and Parole and Bear River Mental Health.

With assistance from his VR counselor, Travis chose a career as a commercial truck driver and was able to secure daily transportation from Brigham City to Sandy to complete his commercial driver’s license training through Sage Trucking Driving School. In addition, Travis received assistance from Employment Specialist Eden Johnson to ensure his prospective employer could participate in the Federal Bonding Program.

Through these collaborative efforts, Travis found full-time employment with Resource Manufacturing as a truck driver in January 2019 and continues to excel in his chosen career. In recounting his journey, Travis simply stated, “Thank you for giving me a brighter future.”