

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your interest in acquiring a PTSD Service Dog through **Continuing the Mission (CTM).** We are deeply committed to improving the lives of Veterans and their families and pride ourselves on optimal veteran-service dog matches. The following requirements must be met in order for service dog placement to be considered:

Reside in North Carolina, South Carolina, or Virginia to ensure continued training and support,

Diagnosis of PTSD by a licensed Behavioral Health Provider\*;

Active treatment with a licensed Behavioral Health Provider for at least three months\*;

Commitment towards continued engagement in treatment for at least 6 months after pairing\*;

Ability to physically and financially care for a dog, and have resided at the same location for six months;

Financial ability to travel to Southern Pines, NC, for training and pairing with a service dog

In addition to these requirements, we will conduct an assessment of your suitability to provide a safe and stable home environment for a service dog. We strongly believe service dogs can be extremely beneficial for Veterans with PTSD, however they are not a substitute for continued behavioral health treatment.

You are **ineligible** for a service dog through CTM if you have been hospitalized for mental health reasons within the last 6 months, carry a diagnosis of psychosis, delusions, dementia, or have active alcohol/substance dependence. Additionally, active suicidal ideation, homicidal ideation, history of aggressive or violent behaviors, or cognitive disabilities that would preclude safety of the service dog are also considered disqualifying.

Our PTSD service dogs are trained to perform the following: **BLOCK** (standing in front of you and between other people in a nonthreatening manner), **WATCH** (standing behind you and between other people in a nonthreatening way), **LIGHTS** (turning lights on and off), **BRING** (retrieving an object), and **REST** (laying their head in your lap in a comforting manner).

After reviewing the criteria, please let us know if you would like to begin the evaluation process by providing your name and address at **ContinuingtheMission.org** or to [**ContinuingtheMission@gmail.com**](mailto:ContinuingtheMission@gmail.com). Please note that if you are currently ineligible (i.e. not in treatment, haven’t lived in the same residence for 6 months, etc.), you may become eligible if your circumstances change, and are welcome to reapply at that time.

Thank you,

**Continuing the Mission**

\*Will require your permission for our counselor to review your diagnosis and treatment plan with your behavioral health provider.