Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Overview

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VR&E Service
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The Mission of Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) is to help Veterans with service connected disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain suitable careers.

For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E provides services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.
• VR&E employs nearly 1,000 professional vocational rehabilitation counselors and delivers services through a network of 420 office locations

• Our service delivery model works to support Veterans where they are located, and includes operations at 56 regional offices, the National Capital Region Benefits Office, 198 out-based offices, IDES installations, and VSOC schools/sites

• VetSuccess On Campus (VSOC)
  – We have collaborated with 94 schools across the country to provide educational and vocational counseling and other on-site services to over 80,000 Veteran students

• Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)
  – We have expanded early intervention counseling and other available services for over 28,000 transitioning Servicemembers at 71 military installations
Services Provided

- Help Veterans with service-related disabilities
  - Achieve and maintain suitable employment
  - Gain independence in daily living
- Vocational counseling and planning
- Education or vocational training
- Monthly living allowance in addition to disability compensation
- Tools to accommodate program (e.g. auto mechanic tools, computers for technology/professional fields)
- Job-seeking skills and assistance in finding employment
- Independent living
  - Training in activities of daily living
  - Personal adjustment counseling and support services
Basic Benefit Information

• 48 months of entitlement
  – May be utilized within 12 years from the date of initial VA disability rating notification
  – Exception for those with a Serious Employment Handicap
Eligibility and Entitlement

• Active Duty Servicemembers:
  – Honorable discharge expected upon separation from active duty
  – Obtain a memorandum or DES rating of 20% or more
  – May also be entitled to VR&E Services if they meet criteria for serious injury or illness established by PL 110-181 (NDAA)
  – Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
  – Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from SCD

• Veterans:
  – Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
  – VA service-connected disability rating or memo rating of 10% or more
  – Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
  – Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from SCD
  – Serious employment handicap establishes entitlement for veterans rated 10%
VR&E Process (CH31)

- Application received
  - VONAP or 28-1900
- Veteran’s eligibility established
  - GED processing used to establish pending 719
- Schedule veteran for initial counseling appointment if eligible

- VRC meets with veteran
- Conduct VR&E orientation to include Five Tracks Video
- Conduct vocational evaluation to assess skills, abilities & interests
- Determine employment handicap (VR&E entitlement criteria) and serious EH
- Determine feasibility for employment

- Work with veteran to identify track
  - Establish vocational or independent living goal
  - Define services needed
  - Develop written plan of services

- On-going case management (max of 18 months)
- Provide employment services
  - Vetsuccess.gov
  - Interview skills
  - Job placement assistance
  - Referral to DOL

Re-Employment

- Rapid Access To Employment
- Self Employment
  - (monitor 1 yr. min)
- Employment Thru Long-Term Services
- Independent Living
  - (24 mo. max with 6 mo. Ext by VR&EO)

- Held suitable employment or improved ability to live independently
Five-Track Employment Process

- Employment Orientation
- Entitlement Determination
- Track Selection
- Re-Employment
- Rapid Access to Employment
- Self-Employment
- Employment Thru Long Term Services
- Independent Living
Re-Employment

• For individuals separating from active duty, National Guard, or Reserves
• Return to previous employers

• Services include:
  – Job accommodations
  – Job modifications
  – Work adjustment assistance
  – Consultation with employer
Rapid Access to Employment

- For individuals seeking employment soon after separation or who already have necessary skills to be competitive in the job market

- Services include:
  - Resume writing and job search assistance
  - Interviewing skills training
  - Job accommodations
  - Refresher courses
  - Licensure and certification
  - Post-employment adjustment services
Self-Employment

- For individuals with limited access to traditional employment, or who need flexible work schedules or a more accommodating work environment due to their disabilities

- Services include:
  - Analysis of viability of business concept
  - Development of a business plan
  - Training in small business operations
  - Marketing assistance
  - Guidance on obtaining resources
Employment Thru Long-Term Services

• For individuals needing specialized training and/or education to obtain and maintain suitable employment

• Services may include:
  – On-the-Job Training (OJT)
  – Apprenticeships and internships
  – Higher education or vocational training
  – Tuition/fees/books/tools
  – Tutoring
  – Subsistence allowance
Independent Living

• For individuals not able to work who need rehabilitation services to live more independently

• Services include:
  – Comprehensive in-home assessment
  – Assistive technologies
  – Independent living skills training
  – Connection to community-based support services
  – Case management services
  – Coordination with VA’s Specially Adapted Housing Program
Other Programs of Services

• Chapter 35
  – Educational counseling for children and widows/spouses of veterans who have a permanent and total service connected disability

• Chapter 36
  – Benefit provided to Servicemembers and Veterans to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals
  – Services are now available on campus at training facilities that are participating in the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Program

• Chapter 18
  – Vocational training and rehabilitation benefits for children born with Spina Bifida of certain veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea
Questions

Contact Information

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