



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Benefits Administration

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## **Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31**

### **What is the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program?**

The VR&E program is authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31. It is referred to as the Chapter 31 program. It assists entitled Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap to prepare for, obtain, and maintain a job. It also helps entitled transitioning Servicemembers.

If you are a Servicemember or Veteran with a service-connected disability and not currently able to work, VR&E also offers services to help you live as independently as possible.

### **Basic period of eligibility**

There is a 12-year basic period of eligibility for VR&E services. The period begins on the latter of the following dates:

- Date of separation from active duty
- Date you were first notified of a service-connected disability rating

### **Who is entitled to receive VR&E services?**

Active-duty Servicemembers who:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Are participating in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) or have an injury or illness that prevents them from performing military duties
  - Servicemembers participating in IDES are presumed entitled
- Are determined by VR&E to need vocational rehabilitation services

Veterans who:

- Have received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Have a VA service-connected disability rating of:
  - 10 percent with a serious employment handicap, or
  - 20 percent or more with an employment handicap
- Are determined by VR&E to need rehabilitation services

## **How is entitlement established?**

You are entitled to services if:

- You have a 20 percent service-connected disability AND
- You have an employment handicap

If your service-connected disability is only 10 percent, you must have a serious employment handicap to be eligible.

A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will work with you to determine entitlement. The evaluation will:

- Assess your interests, aptitudes and abilities
- Assess your service-connected disability and your ability to hold a job
- Include vocational exploration activities and goal development
  - Used to determine suitable employment and maximize independent living
- Explore labor markets and wage information
- Select a VR&E program track
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan

## **What is a Rehabilitation Plan?**

This plan provides a detailed outline of VR&E program services. It is individualized to meet the needs of the Servicemember or Veteran. The plan is a signed agreement between the recipient and VA. The following service delivery options may be included in a rehabilitation plan:

- Re-employment

- Rapid employment services for new employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long-term services
- Independent living services

## **What other benefits may be provided?**

After the plan is enacted, the VRC will provide ongoing counseling, assistance and coordination of services. These include:

- Tutorial assistance
- Job-seeking skills via training or education (Pays 100% of necessary education costs)
- Medical and dental referrals to the Veterans Health Administration
- Adjustment counseling
- Payment of training allowance
- Other services required to help achieve a career and live as independently as possible

## **How can you apply?**

- Apply online: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/how-to-apply/>
- Fill out VA Form 28-1900, “Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation” (You can find the form at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-28-1900-are.pdf>) and mail it to:  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VR&E Intake Center  
PO Box 5210  
Janesville, WI 53547-5210

For more information:

- Connect with your local VA Regional Office to speak with a VR&E representative. You can find your closest VA Regional Office here: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>
- Call 800-827-1000
- Visit <https://va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>

Type of Training	Training Time	No Dependents	One Dependent	Two Dependents	Each Additional Dependent
Institutional; Nonpay or nominal pay work experience in a facility of a Federal, State, local, or federally recognized Indian tribe agency; Improvement of Rehabilitation Potential:	Full-Time	\$723.56	\$897.51	\$1,057.65	\$77.07
	¾ Time	\$543.68	\$674.11	\$790.75	\$59.30
	½ Time	\$363.77	\$450.71	\$529.79	\$39.55
	¼ Time <sup>1</sup>	\$181.86	\$225.39	\$264.90	\$19.73
Nonpay or nominal pay on-job training in a facility of a Federal, State, local, or federally recognized Indian tribe agency; Training in the home; Vocational course in a rehabilitation facility or sheltered workshop; Independent instructor:	Full-Time Only	\$723.56	\$897.51	\$1,057.65	\$77.07
Farm Cooperative, Apprenticeship or other On-Job Training 2:	Full-Time Only	\$632.61	\$765.04	\$881.69	\$57.33
Combination of Institutional and On-Job Training (Institutional Greater than ½); Non-farm Cooperative Institutional Training and Non-farm Cooperative On-Job Training (FT Non-Farm Coop/Institutional):	Full-Time Only	\$723.56	\$897.51	\$1,057.65	\$77.07
Combination of Institutional and On-Job Training (On-the-Job Greater than ½); Non-farm Cooperative Institutional Training and Non-farm Cooperative On-Job Training (FT Non-Farm Coop/On-the-Job):	Full-Time Only	\$632.61	\$765.04	\$881.69	\$57.33

**If I'm eligible for GI Bill benefits, can I get paid the Post-9/11 GI Bill subsistence rate for my VR&E program?**

If you're participating in a VR&E program, you can choose to get paid the GI Bill subsistence rate instead of the Chapter 31 subsistence allowance rate if you meet both of these requirements.

**Both of these must be true:**

- You have at least 1 day of entitlement remaining under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and
- You're within your GI Bill eligibility period

Note: In most cases, the GI Bill rate is higher.