

Department of Veterans Affairs
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
Governor's Working Group, January 28, 2016

You are here

We are here
to help you
achieve
your goals



Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

What is Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E)

- Pathway to increased earning capacity through suitable career employment or increased independence in daily living for eligible Servicemembers and Veterans with service-connected disabilities

Eligibility

- Veterans: At least a 10% service connected disability rating from VA and other than dishonorable discharge. Must also have an employment handicap
- Service Members: Automatic entitlement if discharging due to a disability or as part of the DOD/VA IDES program. Otherwise 20% Memo Rating from VSC.
- All: 12 year period of eligibility and up to 48 months of entitlement

Services

- Training, Job Placement, Independent Living Services, Career Testing & Counseling

VR&E Services

Benefits of VR&E Services

- ✓ Support a wide variety of training programs (college, OJT, self-employment)
- ✓ Payment of all tuition costs, books, required supplies plus a monthly stipend
- ✓ Monthly stipend can be paid at the Post 9/11 GI Bill® rate
- ✓ Work one-on-one with a Counselor to facilitate successful completion of planned services
- ✓ Work one-on-one with an Employment Coordinator for assistance with job placement
- ✓ Use of Tax Incentives only available through VR&E
- ✓ Eligible to expanded medical care at VAMC
- ✓ Educational and vocational counseling for transitioning Servicemembers, recently discharged Veterans, and students receiving VA educational benefits

VR&E Key Statistics and Accomplishments

Key Statistics

- 49 FTE providing services to nearly 5500 participants in North Carolina. 42% two-year growth rate.
 - 63% in Training and 5% seeking employment
- Successfully assisted 278 Veterans in obtaining suitable career employment in the last year
 - 193 were unemployed (70.4%) when applying for VR&E services. Average monthly salary of those who were employed at application was \$746. Average salary for all 278 Veterans was \$3031 after receiving VR&E services

FY15 Accomplishments

- 353 Veterans were determined to be Job-Ready following receipt of VR&E Services
- 100% Outcome Accuracy
- 20% below national target for rendering entitlement determinations (36-day avg.)
- Committed 300 man hours to participating in Outreach events from benefit fairs/ claims clinics to providing presentations to Veteran focused organizations
- Expansion of VR&E employees co-located at three local VAMC facilities
- Hired 17 new VR&E employees in FY15 following several retirements and FY14 hiring freeze

VR&E Performance and Electronic Initiatives

Performance

- FY16 Production Target - assist 303 Veterans with finding or being prepared for suitable employment
 - FYTD performance - 114 Veterans have been assisted with suitable employment
- FY16 Accuracy Targets –
 - Fiscal Accuracy – 92% FYTD performance – 94.4%
 - Outcome Accuracy – 98% FYTD performance – 96.4%
- FY16 Timeliness Targets –
 - Days in Job Ready – 180 Days or less FYTD performance – 171.1 Days
 - Days to Entitlement Decision – 45 Days or less FYTD performance – 33.4 Days

New Initiatives

- Tele-Counseling
- Electronic medical referrals to local VAMCs
- Application submissions through eBenefits for Veterans and Stakeholders Enterprise Portal for Service Officers