



# Vocational Rehabilitation

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

The VR&E Program operates under the mandate that for those Veterans who are unable to gain or secure employment due to their service-connected disabilities, the nation they protected has a responsibility to help them build a new career.

VR&E meets this responsibility in a variety of ways.

First, Veterans are assisted in learning more about themselves: their interests, aptitudes, and disability needs. They are also gathering up-to-date career and labor market information in order to map their path to success.

Specialized counselors work with entitled Veterans to design individualized service plans under five tracks of service. Veterans are provided training and services needed to help them achieve their goals. The services provided depend upon the track each Veteran is in:

1. Re-employment
2. Rapid access to employment
3. Self-employment
4. Employment through long-term services
5. Independent living

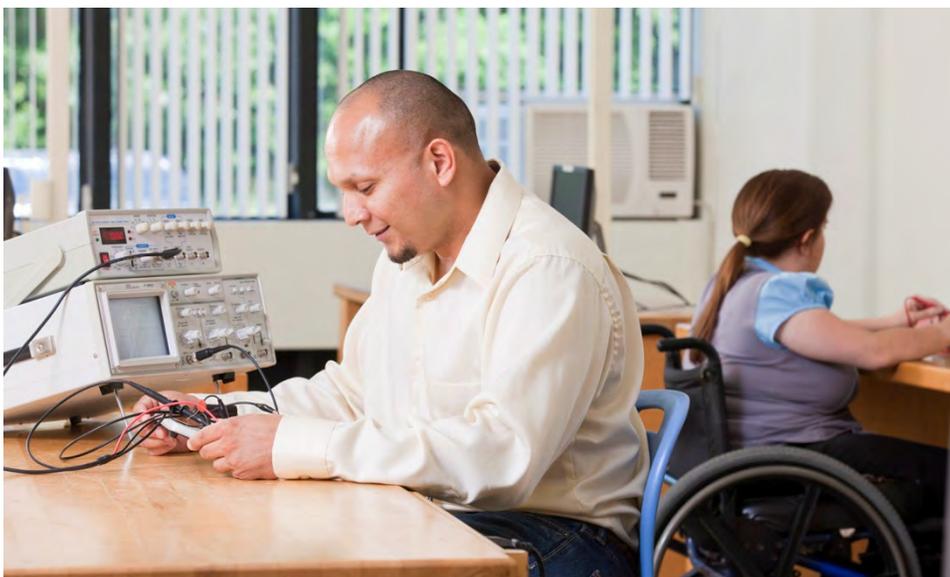
387 locations nationwide, with  
1,395 employees serving  
Veterans

### Mission:

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program provides comprehensive services and assistance necessary to enable Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap to obtain stable and suitable employment. The VR&E program also assists Veterans to achieve maximum independence in daily living when the severity of their disability prohibits suitable employment.

### Activities:

131,607 Veteran Participants  
166,562 Veterans Receiving  
Evaluation and Counseling  
Services  
10,992 Rehabilitations



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Release history	
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## Chapter 31 Services

1. **Re-employment:** For Veterans who have recently exited the military and are interested in returning to their previous employer, and for whom their previous job is suitable for their disability, VR&E provides services such as adjustment counseling, disability information and accommodation, and support in contacting their previous employer.
2. **Rapid access to employment:** For Veterans who possess the skills and abilities to obtain suitable employment, VR&E provides short-term training, counseling, job placement, and post-employment support.
3. **Self-employment:** For those Veterans interested in starting their own business, support in this track can include training, assistance with developing a viable business plan, and in certain circumstances, business startup support.
4. **Employment through long-term services:** The majority of Veterans with a disability require long-term support, typically to include college, on-the-job training, or an apprenticeship program. VR&E funds the cost of all tuition, books, fees, and necessary supplies, as well as a monthly subsistence allowance during training. The length of time Veterans are served under the VR&E program varies according to their disability needs, occupational choice, and pre-existing skills and abilities.
5. **Independent living:** For Veterans for whom employment is not currently reasonably feasible, independent living services assist in achieving more independence in their homes and communities.

Once the Veteran and the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) agree on an individualized plan of services, a supportive partnership begins. Throughout their training Veterans receive continued support and advocacy. Once they are ready to begin their new careers, VR&E assists them with job search preparation and placement support.

VR&E participants include all Veterans who were in a rehabilitation plan of service or an extended evaluation plan during FY 2015, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2015.

Because Veterans can receive rehabilitation services over multiple years, participants may have started their rehabilitation program in a previous fiscal year.



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## Chapter 36 Services

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment also provides career and vocational counseling to transitioning Servicemembers within six months of leaving the military, to Veterans who have left the military within the past 12 months, or at any time to individuals eligible to use a VA education benefit. In 2015, 13,189 Servicemembers and Veterans applied for Chapter 36 services.

These services are designed to provide Servicemembers and Veterans with personalized counseling and support to help guide career paths, ensure the most effective use of VA benefits, and achieve educational and career goals.

## Services Provided Through Other Benefit Chapters

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment also supports other beneficiaries, such as those receiving Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35), children of Vietnam Veterans born with certain birth defects (Chapter 18), Veterans entitled to services under the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) and the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607). In 2015, 217 beneficiaries and Veterans applied for services under these benefit chapters.



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## Quick Reference

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY 15<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Veterans enrolling

Total applicants <sup>3</sup>	88,439
Eligible applicants	86,019
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) <sup>4</sup>	63,817
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	53,396
Entitled applicants (2015 only)	34,129
New plans of service (enrollments)	28,814

#### Veterans enrolled in a plan of services

New plans of service (enrollments)	28,814
Persisting from prior years	79,250
Independent living rehabilitations	1,429
Employment rehabilitations	9,107
Education rehabilitations	456
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	358
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	1,951
Discontinued	10,242
<b>Veterans participating in a plan of services</b>	<b>131,607</b>

#### Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	131,607
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	34,955
<b>Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services</b>	<b>166,562</b>

<sup>1</sup> Application & Rehabilitation Data from VR&E Corporate Data.

<sup>2</sup> Participant Data from End of Fiscal Year 2015 Corporate Snapshot Data.

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 31 only. 97,402 applications were submitted by 88,439 unique Servicemembers and Veterans in FY 15.

<sup>4</sup> Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 15 from Veterans that applied in FY 14.





## Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	166,562
Veterans applying – did not pursue counseling services	33,185
<b>Total VR&amp;E Veterans served</b>	<b>199,747</b>

## Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 15

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	104,116
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	27,083
Veterans participating in the VR&E program with gender data not available	408
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,607</b>

## Employment Handicaps

### Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 15

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	35,043	18,353	53,396
Participants	100,554	31,053	131,607
Rehabilitated	7,966	3,026	10,992

More than 75% of the Veterans participating in the VR&E program have a serious employment handicap. A serious employment handicap means there is significant impairment of a Veteran's ability to prepare for, pursue, or retain employment. Veterans with a serious employment handicap receive additional supportive services, which may include adaptive equipment, job coaching, and independent living services.

## Subsistence Payments



For Veterans who require training as part of their rehabilitation services, VR&E pays for tuition, fees, books, and necessary supplies. Veterans who are enrolled in training receive a monthly subsistence allowance to assist them with living expenses.

### Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 15

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	43,694	76.25%
Graduate	7,269	12.68%
Vocational/ technical	2,285	3.99%
College, non-degree	1,314	2.29%
Extended evaluation/ independent living	1,904	3.32%
Non-paid work experience in government	524	0.92%
Paid on-the-job training	144	0.25%
Farm co-op	63	0.11%
Improvement of rehab potential	59	0.10%
Apprenticeship	42	0.07%
Non-paid on-the-job training	7	0.01%
High school	2	0.01%
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>57,307</b>	

VR&E participants who did not receive subsistence allowance payments during the fiscal year received other forms of rehabilitation services. For example, Veterans who have appropriate training and skills, or who have completed their training, receive job-search assistance and job-accommodation services to transition them into the workforce.

Services include most independent living services, career counseling, medical referrals, and non-training evaluation services such as assistive technology evaluations.

Through outreach and early intervention efforts, some VR&E participants are still on active duty and in the process of separating from the military. VR&E can assist Servicemembers with a disability by providing evaluation, rehabilitation services, training, and case management. Servicemembers are not eligible for subsistence allowance payments until they have completed their separation from the military and are considered a Veteran.

<sup>5</sup> Total excludes 1,243 Veterans that engaged in more than one training type during Fiscal Year 2015. Total also excludes Veterans paid out of the Benefits Delivery Network (BDN).





## VR&E participants by prior education level

	Data not available	Below high school	High school	Post high school	Four year degree	Graduate degree training	Total
Applicants	0	941	27,077	38,666	16,830	4,925	88,439
Participants	375	1,426	48,002	59,600	17,360	4,844	131,607
Rehabilitated	37	148	3,541	4,926	1,918	422	10,992

## VR&E participants by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total <sup>6</sup>
Applicants	218	14,109	30,851	10,489	11,388	8,363	6,344	6,668	88,439
Participants	51	11,742	43,848	16,302	19,547	16,484	12,135	11,497	131,607
Rehabilitated	0	457	3,804	1,297	1,632	1,424	1,015	1,363	10,992

## VR&E participants by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	11,106	48,030	663	13,487	15,048	105	88,439
Participants	17,251	70,506	1,045	19,442	23,210	153	131,607
Rehabilitated	1,561	5,743	85	1,553	2,041	9	10,992

## VR&E participants by period of service

	Data not available	World War II	Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Peacetime	Gulf War Era	Total
Applicants	1,670	29	65	3,747	8,346	74,582	88,439
Participants	65	43	91	6,116	16,362	108,930	131,607
Rehabilitated	2	17	25	829	1,245	8,874	10,992

<sup>6</sup> Totals include 9 applicants and 1 participant unidentifiable by age.



### Veterans by length of service<sup>7</sup>

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	322	534	43
3 - 6 mos.	1,088	1,963	126
6 mos. to 2 years	6,689	11,767	980
2 - 4 years	16,568	26,527	2,011
4 - 10 years	35,273	50,081	4,150
10 - 15 years	9,059	12,315	1,010
15 - 20 years	4,421	6,144	439
20 - 30 years	13,454	20,686	2,109
> 30 years	1,348	1,558	123
In service	195	31	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,439</b>	<b>131,607</b>	<b>10,992</b>

### Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	354	164	8
10%	5,880	5,971	382
20%	5,594	10,478	860
30%	7,763	13,865	1,219
40%	8,333	15,177	1,356
50%	7,535	12,810	1,113
60%	9,989	16,486	1,410
70%	10,530	15,515	1,349
80%	10,836	15,588	1,295
90%	8,924	11,630	912
100%	10,850	13,760	1,088
Memo rating <sup>8</sup>	1,851	163	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,439</b>	<b>131,607</b>	<b>10,992</b>

<sup>7</sup> Includes 22 applicants and 1 participant unidentifiable by length of service.

<sup>8</sup> A memorandum rating is an interim rating decision to determine VR&E benefit eligibility before a final decision is made on a compensation disability claim.





## Rehabilitated Veterans

### Number of Veterans who were rehabilitated during FY 15<sup>9</sup>

Category	Number	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,210	20%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	8,739	79%
Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	7,966	72%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	3,026	28%
Total number of employment rehabilitations	9,107	83%
Total number of education rehabilitations	456	4%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	1,429	13%
<b>Total number of veterans rehabilitated in FY 15</b>	<b>10,992</b>	

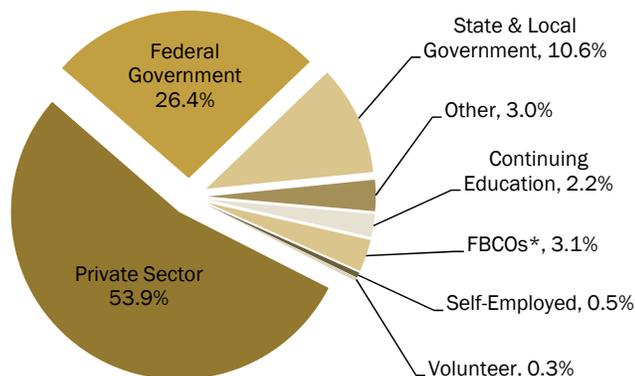
# VR&E Employment Outcomes



## FY 15 employment placements

The chart on the right shows the percentages of the career fields where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 15.

\*FBCOs: faith-based & community organizations



## FY 15 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

Category	Number of Veterans <sup>10</sup>	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation <sup>11</sup>
Professional, technical, and managerial	6,552	\$41,998
Service	405	\$29,467
Clerical	396	\$31,621
Machine Trades	376	\$33,177
Miscellaneous	342	\$35,015
Structural (building trades)	197	\$40,077
Sales	103	\$30,618
Benchwork	53	\$33,139
Agricultural, fishery, and forestry	28	\$24,116
Processing (butcher, meat processor, etc.)	17	\$33,910
<b>Total number and average wage</b>	<b>8,469</b>	<b>\$39,043</b>
Rehabs without full-time wages <sup>12</sup>	1,105	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,574</b>	

<sup>10</sup> Source: VR&E Program Management Reports: Career Outcomes by DOT and Discoverer

<sup>11</sup> Source: VR&E Program Management Reports - VR&E rehabilitations at the end of FY 15.

Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

<sup>12</sup> Includes continuing education, part-time employment, volunteer, and unknown.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Benefits Administration

## Contact Information

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Information:

1-800-827-1000

### Annual Benefits Report (Office of Performance Analysis & Integrity)

202-461-9040

### **vets.gov**

[www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)

### Department of Veterans Affairs home page

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### Veterans Benefits Administration home page

[benefits.va.gov](http://benefits.va.gov)

### eBenefits and Veteran Employment Center (Online forms and applications)

[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

### VR&E home page

[www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab)



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