



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
1,346 employees serving
181,617 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:

123,383 Veteran Participants
148,229 Veterans Receiving
Evaluation and Counseling
Services
181,617 Total Veterans Served
10,680 Rehabilitations



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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 Veterans eligible to use an education benefit.

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.



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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, and intensive 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 disabled Veterans 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 equipment, as well as a monthly subsistence allowance during training. The length of time Veterans are served under Chapter 31 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 2014, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2014.

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

Quick Reference

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY 14^{1,2}

Veterans enrolling

Total applicants	87,094
Eligible applicants	83,760
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) ³	71,910
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	57,472
Entitled applicants	53,706
New plans of service (enrollments)	32,626

Veterans enrolled in a plan of services

New plans of service (enrollments)	32,626
Persisting from prior years	71,950
Independent living rehabilitations	1,548
Employment rehabilitations	8,621
Education rehabilitations	511
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	395
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	1,284
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – other	747
Discontinued	5,701
Veterans participating in a plan of services	123,383

Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	123,383
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	24,846
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services	148,229

¹ Application & Rehabilitation Data from VR&E Program Management Reports (Legacy)

² Participant Data from VR&E Corporate Reports

³ Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 14 from Veterans that applied in FY 13.





Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	148,229
Veterans applying – did not receive counseling services	33,388
Total VR&E Veterans served	181,617

Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 14

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	98,454
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	24,929
Total	123,383

Employment Handicaps

Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 14

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	35,406	18,300	53,706
Participants	92,654	30,729	123,383
Rehabilitated	7,601	3,079	10,680

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 supplies. Veterans who are enrolled in training receive a subsistence allowance to assist them with living expenses.

Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 14⁴

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	57,640	78.18%
Vocational/ technical	3,791	5.14%
Graduate	7,640	10.36%
College, non-degree	1,858	2.52%
Extended evaluation/ independent living	1,440	1.95%
Paid on-job training	150	0.20%
Non-paid work experience in government	678	0.92%
Non-paid on-job training	267	0.36%
High school	9	0.01%
Apprenticeship	120	0.16%
Improvement of rehab potential	102	0.14%
Farm co-op	31	0.04%
Total	73,726	100%

VR&E participants who did not receive subsistence payments during the fiscal year received other forms of rehabilitation services. 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 disabled Servicemembers with 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.

⁴ Source: VR&E Program Management Reports – Snapshot of VR&E Participants at the end of fiscal year 2014.





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	1,112	29,419	36,990	15,380	4,193	87,094
Participants	4,982	1,143	47,287	53,645	14,832	1,494	123,383
Rehabilitated	26	139	3,963	4,571	1,640	341	10,680

VR&E participants by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total ⁵
Applicants	449	16,430	26,268	11,140	10,600	8,756	6,571	6,872	87,094
Participants	132	13,414	38,041	16,915	17,917	16,170	10,590	10,200	123,379
Rehabilitated	0	699	3,272	1,469	1,541	1,486	945	1,268	10,680

VR&E participants by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	10,414	49,012	689	12,242	14,591	146	87,094
Participants	16,352	67,154	1,113	16,738	22,002	24	123,383
Rehabilitated	1,580	5,524	135	1,397	2,025	19	10,680

VR&E participants by period of service

	World War II	Post-World War II Era	Korean Conflict	Post - Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Post - Vietnam Era	Gulf War Era	Total ⁶
Applicants	56	8	61	232	3,685	10,266	72,760	87,094
Participants	65	13	118	106	7,485	11,896	103,700	123,383
Rehabilitated	12	3	18	38	723	1,096	8,790	10,680

⁵ Total includes 8 applicants and 4 Participants unidentifiable by age.

⁶ Total includes 26 applicants unidentifiable by period of service.



Veterans by length of service

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	538	690	70
3 - 6 mos.	1,175	2,184	148
6 mos. to 2 years	9,985	15,036	1,387
2 - 4 years	24,082	35,536	2,941
4 - 10 years	27,091	38,322	3,236
10 - 15 years	5,950	9,437	728
15 - 20 years	2,465	8,394	363
20 - 30 years	9,161	10,379	1,717
> 30 years	239	1,330	48
In service ⁷	6,408	2,075	42
Total	87,094	123,383	10,680

Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	8,056	49	23
10%	7,333	4,972	386
20%	6,671	9,413	955
30%	9,217	12,291	1,316
40%	8,374	13,718	1,402
50%	7,717	11,719	1,128
60%	9,235	15,346	1,422
70%	8,854	14,853	1,232
80%	8,191	15,317	1,153
90%	4,954	11,528	737
100%	5,854	13,690	920
Memo ratings ⁸	320	487	6
Data not available	2,318	-	-
Total	87,094	123,383	10,680

⁷ In Service: The VR&E program provides service to active military personnel, such as those on medical hold or those in the pre-discharge phase.

⁸ 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.



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Rehabilitated Veterans

Number of Veterans who were rehabilitated during FY 14

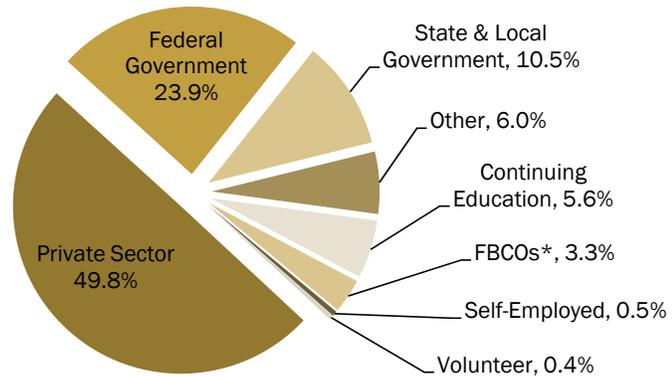
Category	Number	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,008	19%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	8,672	81%
Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	7,601	71%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	3,079	29%
Total number of employment rehabilitations	8,621	81%
Total number of education rehabilitations	511	5%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	1,548	14%
Total number of veterans rehabilitated in FY 14	10,680	100%

VR&E Employment Outcomes



FY 14 employment placements

The chart on the right shows the percentages of the career fields where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 14.



*FBCOs: faith-based & community organizations

FY 14 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

Category	Number of Veterans ⁹	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation ¹⁰
Professional, technical, and managerial	6,044	\$41,215
Clerical	420	\$31,818
Machine Trades	406	\$32,967
Service	405	\$29,605
Miscellaneous	342	\$35,061
Structural (building trades)	208	\$38,180
Sales	106	\$33,952
Benchwork	47	\$34,217
Agricultural, fishery, and forestry	19	\$26,238
Processing (butcher, meat processor, etc.)	15	\$28,474
Total number and average wage	8,012	\$38,382
Rehabs without full-time wages ¹¹	1,120	NA
Total	9,132	

⁹ Source: VR&E Program Management Reports: Career Outcomes by DOT and Discoverer

¹⁰ Source: VR&E Program Management Reports –VR&E rehabilitations at the end of FY 14

Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

¹¹ 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

Department of Veterans Affairs home page

www.va.gov

Veterans Benefits Administration home page

benefits.va.gov

eBenefits and Veteran Employment Center (Online forms and applications)

www.ebenefits.va.gov

VR&E home page

www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab



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