Moving from active military service to civilian status is a huge transition for all Veterans, but it can be especially challenging for individuals with disabilities. VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VocRehab) program helps these Veterans navigate the transition to fulfilling, independent lives as civilians.

“...The contributions that our servicemen and women can make to this nation do not end when they take off that uniform. We owe a debt to all who serve. And when we repay that debt to those bravest Americans among us, then we are investing in our future—not just their future, but also the future of our own country.”

— President Barack Obama

VocRehab: In Your Community
Veterans whose service-connected disabilities require intensive and frequent rehabilitation may not be ready for work. VocRehab's Independent Living program can help them live independently in their home and community, and provides support so that eventually they may be able to return to work.

Each independent living plan is personalized to meet the individual Veteran’s needs. In general, Veterans can receive up to 24 months of support to help them live independently in their home and community to the greatest extent possible.

**Independent living services may include:**

- Evaluation and counseling services to help you determine your independent living needs and identify your goals.

- Consultations with specialists such as medical doctors, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and rehabilitation engineers.

- Information and referral to resources such as health care services, special technology and equipment, community living support, and family counseling.

- Information and assistance with home modification programs such as the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant, and Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant.

For the address of your local VA office, call 1.800.827.1000
Veterans who are not currently able to pursue an employment goal, and who need support to become more independent, may participate in VocRehab’s Independent Living program.

Eligibility
You are eligible to apply to VocRehab if:

- You are a Veteran who has an other than dishonorable discharge and a service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more.
- You are a Servicemember who has a VA memorandum or Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) rating of 20 percent or more and you expect an other than dishonorable discharge.
- You are a Servicemember currently going through a Physical Evaluation Board.

If you meet the above criteria, submit VA Form 28-1900 or apply online at eBenefits.va.gov

Entitlement
Once you’ve submitted an application and it’s determined that you are eligible for VocRehab support, you’ll be invited to schedule a meeting with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. The counselor will work with you to discuss your interests and career goals, understand how your service-connected disability affects your career, and determine whether you are entitled to receive VocRehab benefits.

Planning
If you are entitled to VocRehab benefits, your counselor will help you create a Rehabilitation Plan—a roadmap leading to meaningful employment and independent living. Your counselor will continue to offer guidance and support throughout your vocational rehabilitation.

During your initial consultation with a counselor, it will be determined if independent living services are right for you. To receive independent living services you must meet the criteria for entitlement to other VocRehab programs and you must also:

- Have a serious employment handicap
- Have a service-connected disability rating of 20 percent or more
- Be unable to achieve a vocational goal at this time
- Be able to make measurable improvements in independent living

After eligibility is established, your independent living needs will be evaluated, and a counselor will work with you to identify the services necessary to address them. Your plan will be specially designed to help you overcome barriers to living independently at home and in your community. The plan sets measurable goals and results in improvements that you can continue to make—without further VA assistance—after the benefits period has ended.

1. Submit VA Form 28-1900 or apply online at eBenefits.gov
2. Meet with a counselor to determine whether you are entitled to VocRehab benefits
3. If entitled, create a Rehabilitation Plan

The first step to receiving VocRehab benefits is to learn if you are eligible to apply. All Veterans and Servicemembers who are eligible to apply are encouraged to do so to determine if they are entitled to receive benefits.
Counseling • Training • Education • Job Placement