

Dear Colleagues,

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has Employment Coordinators (EC) as part of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program that assist Veterans and Service members with employment?

There are 81 ECs located at VA's 56 Regional Offices and many of our out-based locations who reach out to Veterans, businesses, and organizations, to ensure they are aware of employment services available to them. The ECs provide a wide array of employment opportunities through this program, to include:

- Assistance with labor market information
- Employer visits to obtain more information on job openings and leads
- Employer education
- Resume development
- Interview skills training
- Job Resource Labs
- Job coaching
- Follow-up with Veterans and employers to determine any needs/accommodations
- Ensuring www.VetSuccess.gov is up to date with employment opportunities

ECs also assist Veterans with service-connected disabilities with the following programs:

VR&E on the Job Training Program (OJT)

An employer can hire a Veteran at an apprentice wage and VR&E supplements the salary up the journeyman wage (up to maximum allowable under OJT). As the Veteran progresses through training, the employer begins to pay more of the salary until the Veteran reaches journeyman level and the employer is paying the entire salary. VR&E will also pay for any necessary tools. The employer may also be eligible for a federal tax credit for hiring an individual who participated in a vocational rehabilitation program.

VR&E Special Employer Incentive Program (SEI)

This program is used for Veterans facing extraordinary obstacles to employment. A Veteran is placed in an OJT or a work experience with an employer and VR&E can reimburse the employer up to 50% of the Veteran's salary for up to 6 months. The employer may also be eligible for a federal tax credit for hiring an individual who participated in a vocational rehabilitation program.

VR&E Non-Paid Work Experience Program (NPWE)

A Veteran is placed in a local, state, or Federal government office position. The placement does not count against the agency's Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) openings and the agency does not pay the Veteran. VR&E pays the Veteran monthly subsistence allowance while the Veteran is participating in the program. During the placement, the Veteran works towards gaining and/or strengthening particular skill sets. Though the office is under no obligation to hire the Veteran,

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the goal of this program is for the Veteran to obtain full-time, permanent employment in the office where he/she is placed or a similar office.

If you are an employer or know of one who is interested in hiring Veterans, please contact your local Employment Coordinator. You can reach them by calling 1-800-827-1000 and ask to speak to the VR&E Officer or by contacting us through our website at www.vetsuccess.gov

V/R

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VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (“I CARE”)

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