Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31

What is the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program?

The VR&E program is authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31. It is referred to as the Chapter 31 program. It assists entitled Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap to prepare for, obtain, and maintain a job. It also helps entitled transitioning Servicemembers.

If you are a Servicemember or Veteran with a service-connected disability and not currently able to work, VR&E also offers services to help you live as independently as possible.

Basic period of eligibility

There is a 12-year basic period of eligibility for VR&E services. The period begins on the latter of the following dates:

- Date of separation from active duty
- Date you were first notified of a service-connected disability rating

Who is entitled to receive VR&E services?

Active-duty Servicemembers who:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Are participating in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) or have an injury or illness that prevents them from performing military duties
  - Servicemembers participating in IDES are presumed entitled
- Are determined by VR&E to need vocational rehabilitation services
Veterans who:

- Have received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Have a VA service-connected disability rating of:
  - 10 percent with a serious employment handicap, or
  - 20 percent or more with an employment handicap
- Are determined by VR&E to need rehabilitation services

**How is entitlement established?**

You are entitled to services if:

- You have a 20 percent service-connected disability AND
- You have an employment handicap

If your service-connected disability is only 10 percent, you must have a serious employment handicap to be eligible.

A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will work with you to determine entitlement. The evaluation will:

- Assess your interests, aptitudes and abilities
- Assess your service-connected disability and your ability to hold a job
- Include vocational exploration activities and goal development
  - Used to determine suitable employment and maximize independent living
- Explore labor markets and wage information
- Select a VR&E program track
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan

**What is a Rehabilitation Plan?**

This plan provides a detailed outline of VR&E program services. It is individualized to meet the needs of the Servicemember or Veteran. The plan is a signed agreement between the recipient and VA. The following service delivery options may be included in a rehabilitation plan:

- Re-employment

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• Rapid employment services for new employment
• Self-employment
• Employment through long-term services
• Independent living services

What other benefits may be provided?

After the plan is enacted, the VRC will provide ongoing counseling, assistance and coordination of services. These include:

• Tutorial assistance
• Job-seeking skills via training or education
• Medical and dental referrals to the Veterans Health Administration
• Adjustment counseling
• Payment of training allowance
• Other services required to help achieve a career and live as independently as possible

How can you apply?

• Apply online: https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/how-to-apply/
• Fill out VA Form 28-1900, “Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation” (You can find the form at https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-28-1900-are.pdf) and mail it to:
  Department of Veterans Affairs
  VR&E Intake Center
  PO Box 5210
  Janesville, WI 53547-5210

For more information:

• Connect with your local VA Regional Office to speak with a VR&E representative. You can find your closest VA Regional Office here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp
• Call 800-827-1000
• Visit https://va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/