



Veteran Readiness

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

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 also gather up-to-date career and labor market information in order to map their path to success.

Specialized counselors work with entitled and enrolled Veterans to design individualized service plans under five tracks of service. Veterans are provided training and services needed to help them achieve their goals. 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



Over 350 locations
nationwide, with 1,452
employees serving Veterans

Mission:

The Veteran Readiness 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:

125,144 Veteran Participants

147,949 Veterans Receiving
Evaluation and Counseling
Services

11,888 Veteran Rehabilitations



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Release history

Version & changes

Date

Data as of

09/30/2021



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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 2021, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2021.

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

Services Provided Through Other Benefit Chapters

Veteran Readiness 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 2021, 78 beneficiaries and Veterans applied for services under these benefit chapters.



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Quick Reference

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY21

Veterans enrolling

Total applicants ¹	92,247
Eligible applicants	69,924
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) ²	60,910
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	50,894
Entitled applicants (2021 only)	40,287
New plans of service (enrollments) ³	32,928

Veterans enrolled in a plan of services at the end of FY21^{4,5}

New plans of service (Unique enrollments)	32,892
Persisting from prior years	64,223
Independent living rehabilitations	389
Employment rehabilitations	10,652
Education rehabilitations	849
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	737
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	5,246
Discontinued	10,156
Veterans participating in a plan of services	125,144

¹ Unique count of Chapter 31 only applicants

² Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 21 from Veterans that applied in FY 20.

³ Includes Veterans who entered a plan of services more than once in the same fiscal year.

⁴ Includes 1 Chapter 35 employment rehabilitation and 1 Chapter 35 education rehabilitation not included in subsequent rehabilitation totals.

⁵ Unique counts of rehabilitations.



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Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	125,144
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	22,805
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services	147,949

Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	147,949
Veterans applying – did not pursue counseling services	41,106
Total VR&E Veterans served	189,055

Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 21

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	94,006
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	30,912
Veterans participating in the VR&E program with gender data not available	226
Total	125,144



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Employment Handicaps

Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 21

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	29,412	21,482	50,894
Participants	86,743	38,401	125,144
Rehabilitated	7,743	4,145	11,888

Nearly 70 percent 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 may receive additional supportive services, which may include adaptive equipment, job coaching, and independent living services.



Beneficiary 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.

FY 2021 VR&E appropriations

Obligations	2021 Actual (dollars in thousands)
Subsistence Allowance	\$591,129
Books, Tuition, Supplies, Fees	\$827,920
Total	\$1,419,050



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Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 21

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	61,792	69.5%
Graduate	16,612	18.7%
Vocational/Technical	5,315	6.0%
College, Non-Degree	2,447	2.8%
Improvement of Rehab Potential	952	1.1%
Extended Evaluation/Independent Living	631	0.7%
Non-paid Work Experience in Government	482	0.5%
Apprenticeship	309	0.3%
Paid On-the-Job Training	231	0.3%
Farm Co-op	90	0.1%
Non-paid On-the-Job Training	27	0.0%
Total	88,888	

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 Service members with a disability by providing evaluation, rehabilitation services, training, and case management. Service members are not eligible for subsistence allowance payments until they have completed their separation from the military and are considered a Veteran.



Veterans by prior education level

	Data not available	Below high school	High school	Post high school	Four-year degree	Graduate degree training	Total
Applicants	0	1,831	45,715	18,982	3,700	22,019	92,247
Participants	8	1,751	67,148	27,541	7,168	21,528	125,144
Rehabilitated	2	149	5,959	2,908	960	1,910	11,888

Veterans by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total
Applicants	560	15,311	34,828	13,330	9,636	8,385	5,460	4,736	92,247 ⁶
Participants	382	16,755	51,526	18,295	13,595	11,767	7,112	5,712	125,144
Rehabilitated	0	1,028	5,500	1,744	1,377	1,108	628	503	11,888

Veterans by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	12,793	46,399	916	14,666	17,403	70	92,247
Participants	16,520	64,573	1,201	21,243	21,565	42	125,144
Rehabilitated	1,654	5,867	113	2,199	2,055	0	11,888

Veterans by period of service

	World War II	Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Peacetime	Gulf War Era	Other	Total ⁷
Applicants	15	4	507	2,116	52,913	5,061	92,247
Participants	22	17	783	4,409	98,401	7,537	125,144
Rehabilitated	1	4	110	332	9,530	712	11,888

⁶ Totals include 1 applicant unidentifiable by age.

⁷ Totals include 31,631 applicants, 13,975 participants, and 1,199 rehabilitations where period of services was not available.



Veterans by length of service

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	495	625	32
3 - 6 mos.	1,563	2,005	138
6 mos. to 2 years	7,555	10,856	840
2 - 4 years	16,919	24,338	1,976
4 - 10 years	38,855	53,416	5,370
10 - 15 years	8,165	11,577	1,204
15 - 20 years	3,500	5,044	519
20 - 30 years	11,402	14,620	1,662
> 30 years	1,048	1,318	147
In service	2,707	1,345	0
Total⁸	92,247	125,144	11,888

⁸ Includes 38 applicants unidentifiable by length of service.



Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	181	32	1
10%	3,649	2,187	208
20%	2,806	3,846	408
30%	3,931	5,887	632
40%	4,815	7,433	830
50%	4,829	7,369	786
60%	7,430	11,597	1,224
70%	10,276	15,230	1,477
80%	11,698	17,431	1,649
90%	12,127	17,747	1,736
100%	26,132	34,586	2,937
Memo rating ⁹	3,210	1,799	0
Total¹⁰	92,247	125,144	11,888

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Includes 1,163 applicants unidentifiable by combined service-connected disability rating.





Rehabilitated Veterans

Number of Veterans who were rehabilitated during FY 21

Category	Number ¹¹	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,734	23.0%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	9,130	77.0%
Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	7,743	65.1%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	4,145	34.9%
Total number of employment rehabilitations	10,651	89.6%
Total number of education rehabilitations	848	7.1%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	389	3.3%
Total number of Veterans rehabilitated in FY 2021		11,888

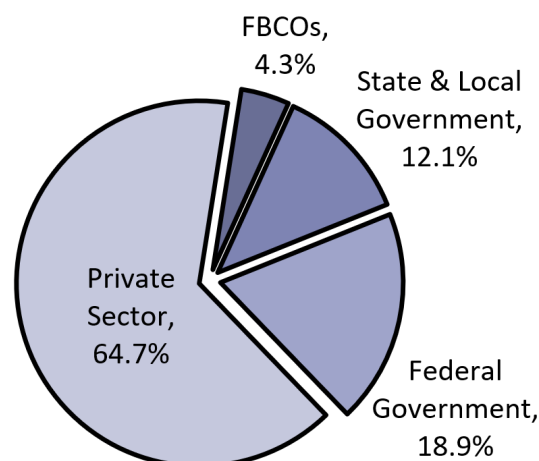
¹¹ Excludes 24 rehabilitations where gender data was not available.

VR&E Employment Outcomes



FY 21 employment placements^{12,13}

The chart on the right shows the percentages of the career fields where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 21.



FY 21 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

Category	Number of Veterans	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation ¹⁴
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	9,354	\$59,380
Machine Trades	327	\$44,186
Services	325	\$41,269
Miscellaneous	312	\$47,899
Clerical	272	\$43,203
Structural (Building Trades)	212	\$60,756
Sales	121	\$51,475
Agricultural, Fishery and Forestry	46	\$43,785
Processing (Butcher, Meat Processor etc.)	20	\$44,105
Total number and average wage	10,989	\$54,787
Rehabs without full-time wages ¹⁵	510	NA
Total	11,499	

¹² FBCOs: Faith-Based & Community Organizations.

¹³ Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

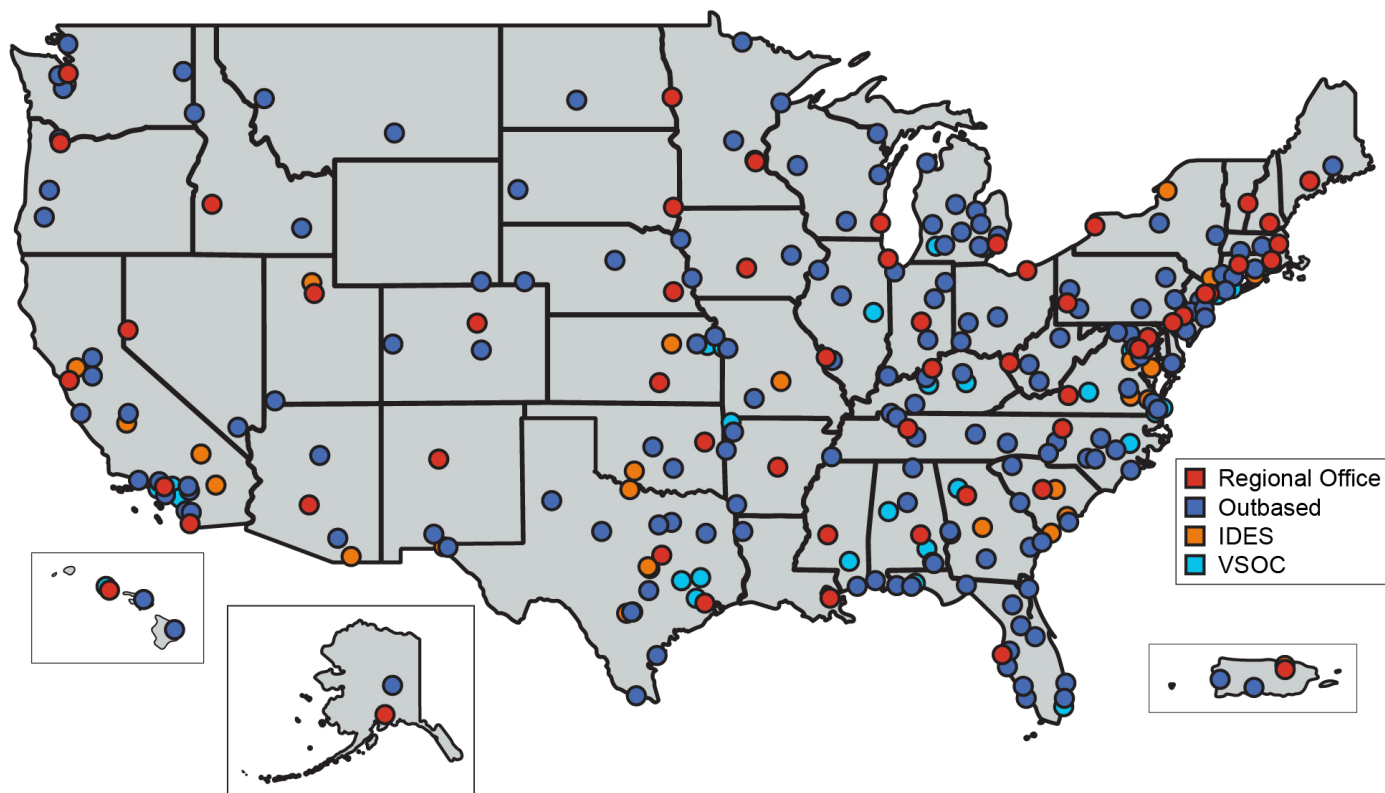
¹⁴ Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

¹⁵ Includes continuing education, part-time employment, volunteer, and unknown.



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Appendix – Map of VR&E Locations



Visit the [VA Regional Offices Websites](https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp) page (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>) for regional office, Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES), and out-based locations.

Visit the [VetSuccess on Campus \(VSOC\)](https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp) page (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>) for VSOC locations and counselor contact information

Contact Information

Veteran Readiness and Employment Information:

1-800-827-1000

Annual Benefits Report (Office of Performance Analysis & Integrity)

212-461-9040

Department of Veterans Affairs home page

www.va.gov

Veterans Benefits Administration home page

benefits.va.gov

eBenefits (Online forms and applications)

www.ebenefits.va.gov

VR&E home page

www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab



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