

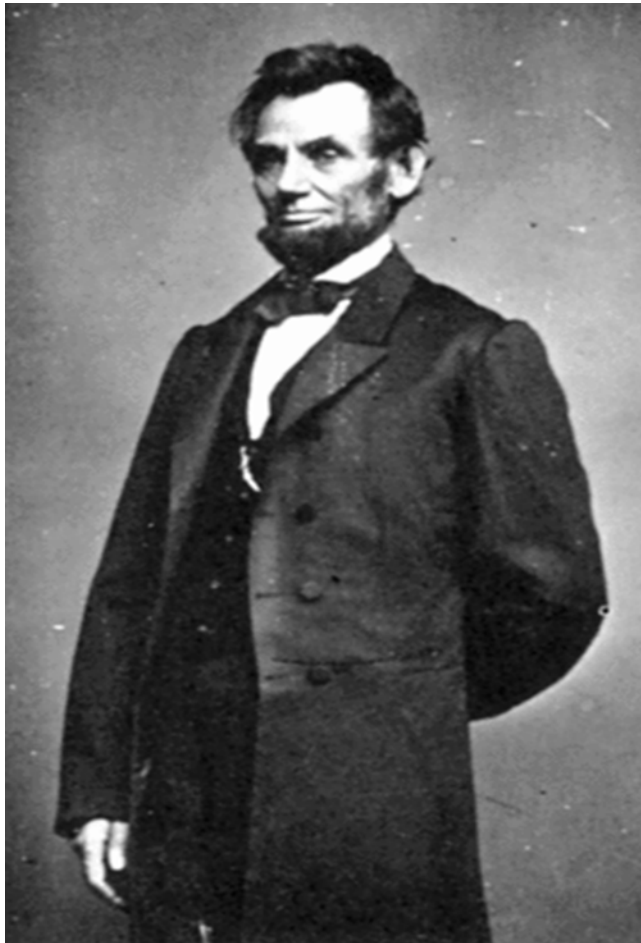
Welcome to The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Orientation



**Individualized Path to
Employment**



VR&E Program Orientation



“...let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan....”

- President Abraham Lincoln



VR&E Program Intent

- Provide services to assist Veterans and Servicemembers with service-connected disabilities to succeed:
 - In transition ... through services to support transition back to civilian life
 - At work ... through services resulting in suitable employment
 - On campus ... through services to support them during education and training
 - At home ... and in their communities ... through services to maximize independence in daily living



VR&E Eligibility Criteria

Veterans:

- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- A VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or memorandum rating of 20 percent
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits

Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive a honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Obtain a Proposed Disability Evaluation Service (DES) rating
- Servicemembers awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty may be automatically entitled to VR&E benefits under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008.
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits

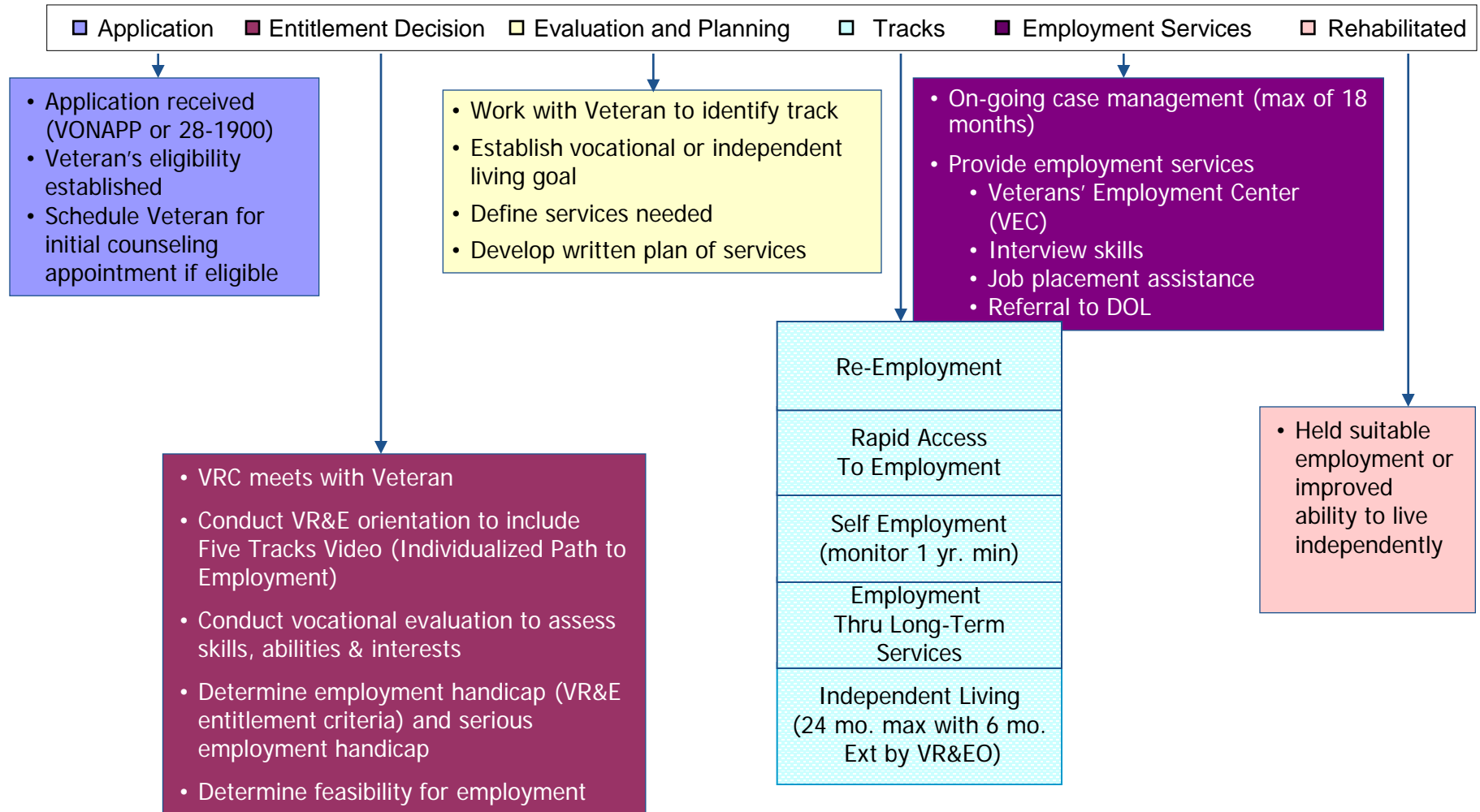


VR&E Basic Benefit Information

- A maximum of 48 months of entitlement
- May be utilized within 12 years from the date of initial VA disability rating notification. The 12-year period begins on the latter of these dates:
 - Date of separation from active military duty, or
 - Date when the Veteran was first notified of a service-connected disability rating
- Exception for Veterans with a Serious Employment Handicap



VR&E Process





5 Tracks to Employment

- Re-employment
- Rapid Access to Employment
- Employment through Long-Term Services
- Independent Living Services
- Self-Employment





Re-Employment Track

Designed for individuals separating from active duty, National Guard, or Reserves and are returning to their previous employment

Services may include:

- Consultation with your employer
- Job accommodations and modifications
- Coordination of services with VA health care
- Reemployment rights advice
- Case management



Rapid Access to Employment Track

Designed for individuals expressing interest in seeking employment soon after separation or have the necessary skills to be competitively employed in an appropriate occupation

Services may include:

- Job readiness preparation
- Resume development
- Job Search Assistance
- Post-employment follow-up



Employment Through Long-Term Services Track

Designed for individuals requiring specialized training and/or education to obtain suitable employment

Services may include:

- Apprenticeships and Internships
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE) Training
- College, Vocational, or Technical Training
- Required tuition/fees/books/supplies
- Subsistence Allowance
- Personalized case management support



Self-Employment Track

Designed for individuals who have the desire and skills to run a business and need a flexible or accommodating work environment because of their disabilities

Services may include:

- Help developing a business plan
- Analysis of your business concept
- Training in small business operations, marketing, and finances
- Guidance in obtaining adequate resources to implement the business plan



Self-Employment Track

Three Self-Employment Categories

- VR&E has three self-employment categories. The provision of self-employment services is dependent on the self-employment category designation.
 1. Category I
 2. Category II
 3. Existing Business Category



Self-Employment Track

Category I

Individuals who have been determined to have:

- A Serious Employment Handicap
- The most-severe service-connected disabilities
- Employability limitations so severe that self-employment is the only option to achieve the rehabilitation goal
 - All other reasonable employment goals are unsuitable due to the severity of the Veteran's service connected disability(ies).

Veterans assigned to Category I may receive:

- Training in the vocational goal and in the operation of a small business; minimum stocks of materials; expendable items required for day-to-day operations, and items which are consumed on the premises.
- Essential equipment
- Incidental services (e.g., business license fees)



Self-Employment Track

Category II

Individuals who have been determined to have:

- Employment Handicap, or
- Serious Employment Handicap, but the service-connected disability(ies) is not considered the most severe.

Veterans assigned to Category II may receive:

- Comprehensive training in the vocational goal.
- Incidental training in the management of a small business.
- License, or other fees, required for employment.
- Personal tools and supplies that are required of all individuals to begin employment in the approved occupational field.



Self-Employment Track

Existing Business Category

- Applicable to Veterans who have existing businesses
- In this case, VR&E may not expand or grow the business, but may be able to assist with reasonable accommodation.



Independent Living Track

Designed for individuals who may not be currently ready for employment or currently able to pursue a vocational goal

Services may include:

- Acquiring Assistive technology
- Independent living skills training
- Community-based support services
- Gaining increased access within the home and community
- Help in acquiring a volunteer position



VR&E Benefits and GI Bill

- Is the VR&E Program the same as the GI Bill?
 - No. GI Bill is an educational program.
 - The purpose of the VR&E Program is to help Veterans with service-connected disabilities and barriers to employment to become suitably employed.
 - Four of the Five VR&E Tracks of Services are geared specifically toward employment
 - The “E” in VR&E stands for the program’s mission to assist Veterans and Servicemembers with obtaining suitable Employment.



VR&E Employment Focus

The VR&E Program provides employment services in four of the five rehabilitation tracks. Personalized employment services may include:

- Work-readiness preparation
- Resume development and job-seeking skills
- Employment resources development
- Job accommodations
- Job placement assistance
- Post-Employment Follow-up
- Evaluation of your abilities, aptitudes, and interests
- Career counseling and rehabilitation planning

Special Employer Incentives (SEI)

- Training Costs
- VA-provided supplies
- Workplace Accommodations
- Minimal paperwork to participate



VR&E Employment Focus

Other Employment Services may include:

- Referrals to other employment resources
 - Veterans Employment Center (VEC)
 - Online tool that connects Veterans and employers
 - Access through <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>
- Department of Labor (DOL)
 - Employment Assistance
 - Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)
 - Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)



Chapter 18 and 35 Benefits

How VR&E assists Eligible Dependents

Chapter 18 Benefits

- VR&E provides services to eligible dependents born with spina bifida and other congenital disabilities.
- With the goal of suitable employment, VR&E provides training and other rehabilitative services.

Chapter 35 Benefits

- Dependents' Educational Assistance
- Educational benefit provided to eligible dependents of Veterans who have either died, been involuntarily detained, or determined to have a permanent and total service-connected disability.



Other Programs and Services

- Chapter 36, Educational and Career/Vocational Counseling services
 - VR&E assisting Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible dependents
- VetSuccess on Campus
 - VR&E assisting Servicemembers, student Veterans, and eligible dependents
- Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)
 - VR&E assisting Servicemembers that are wounded, ill, or injured





Chapter 36 Services

How VR&E assists Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible Dependents

Educational and Career/Vocational Counseling services is a great opportunity for Veterans and Servicemembers to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

Who May Apply

- Transitioning Servicemembers who are within six months prior to discharge from active duty
- Veteran within one year following discharge from active duty
- Any Servicemember/Veteran currently eligible for a VA education benefit
- All current VA education beneficiaries



VetSuccess on Campus

How VR&E assists Student Veterans

- VR&E has VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors on over 90 college campuses to assist Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible dependents. These VSOC Counselors provide a multitude of services to ease the transition to student life.
- The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program's mission is to provide student Veterans seamless access to VA services; support their successful integration into college and university campuses; support their individualized educational goals, so they may persist, graduate, and improve their life circumstances; and successfully live and thrive in the career field and community of their choice



VetSuccess on Campus

Veteran Students may receive the following support and services:

- Adjustment counseling to resolve problems interfering with completion of education programs and entrance into employment
- Vocational testing
- Career and academic counseling
- Expedited Chapter 31 services
- Support and assistance to all student Veterans with VA benefits regardless of entitlement, benefit usage and enrollment status
- Peer-to-peer counseling
- Assistance with navigating the academic environment and process
- Referral services as needed



Applying for Services

- On-line
 - <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>
 - Create an ebenefits account or login using an existing account
- Mail or deliver application to the nearest local VA Regional Office
 - 56 Regional Offices around the US



For More Information

Find your local VR&E office by calling
Veterans Benefits Administration Toll Free Number:

1-800-827-1000

- Online Resources:

www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

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Thank you for participating
in this briefing

