

# Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Chapter 31 Program

## Individualized Path to Employment



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

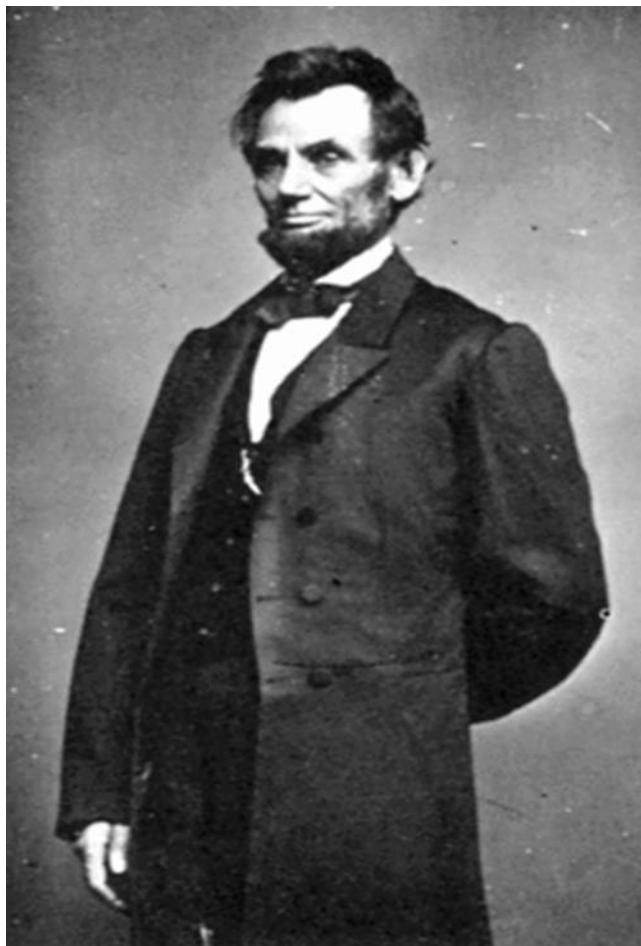
# VR&E Mission

To help Veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs.

For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.



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“...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

# Eligibility to Apply for VR&E Benefits

## Veterans:

- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- A VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or memorandum rating of 20 percent or more

## Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Enrolled in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

# Entitlement to VR&E Benefits

In addition to eligibility, the SM/V must meet the criteria for entitlement

- For this determination to be made several factors must be met
  - Vocational impairment – factors outside of Veteran’s control leading to Veteran being unemployed or not suitability employed
  - Service-connected disabilities *must* contribute to vocational impairment
  - Veteran has not overcome vocational impairment
    - Feasibility determination

This determination can only be made by a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)

# After The Entitlement Determination

**The Veteran and Counselor work together to:**

- Determine [transferable skills, aptitudes, and interests](#)
- Identify viable employment and/or independent living services options
- Explore labor market and wage information
- Identify physical demands and other job characteristics
- Explore vocational options to identify a [suitable employment](#) goal
- Select a VR&E program track leading to an employment or independent living goal
- Investigate training requirements & select suitable training facility/program
- Identify resources needed to achieve rehabilitation
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan to achieve the identified employment or independent living goals

# Types of Evaluations / Tools for Evaluations

- Informational Interviews
- Coordinated Job Shadowing Events
- Contractual Evaluation Services
- Diagnostic Vocational Evaluations
- Transferrable Skills Analysis
- Insight/Feedback from Medical Professionals
- Referrals to VAMC for Medical Evaluations
- Referral for Benefits Counseling
- Referral to Veteran Service Organizations
- Referrals to Department of Labor/ Employment Service Department

# VR&E Basic Benefit Information

- A maximum of 48 months of entitlement
- The time limit for a SM/V's eligibility to receive VR&E benefits and services is limited to a 12-year period

**Note: The 12-year period is only applicable for any Veterans discharged prior to 01/01/2013.**

- 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 VA service-connected disability rating
- The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a VRC determines that a SM/V has a serious employment handicap (SEH).



# Five Tracks to Employment

## 1. Reemployment

- Designed to provide the services necessary for the individual to return to work in the job held prior to entering active duty

## 2. Rapid Access to Employment

- Designed for individuals expressing interest in seeking employment who have the necessary skills to be competitive in the labor market in a suitable occupation

## 3. Employment Through Long-term Services

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

## 4. Self-Employment

- Designed to provide services to SM/V who have the necessary job skills to start a business, and/or have limited access to traditional employment

## 5. Independent Living

- Designed for SM/V who are unable pursue a vocational goal or seek 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
- Interviewing skills preparation
- Employment resources development
- Job accommodations
- Job placement assistance
- Post-employment follow-up
- Career counseling and rehabilitation planning

# VR&E Employment Focus

## Other Employment Services may include:

- Referrals to other employment resources
- Online tool that connects SM/V and employers access via <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

## Department of Labor (DOL)/ WorkSource

- Employment assistance
- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)
- Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)

# VR&E Employment Focus, Sched. A Letter

**Schedule A Letters :** Can be prepared for any qualifying disabled Veteran (regardless of entitlement determination or choice to apply).

# VR&E Employment Focus, Sched. A Letter

- What is Schedule A and How Does it Work?
  - Schedule A is a hiring authority that Federal agencies may use to hire qualified individuals with disabilities into positions non-competitively without going through the (often lengthy) traditional hiring process.
  - To be eligible for appointment via Schedule A, you must be able to provide supporting documentation upon request by the federal agency considering you for employment (typically referred to as a “Schedule A Letter”). The documentation must indicate that you have an intellectual disability, a severe physical disability, or a psychiatric disability.

# Applying for Services

Veterans can apply by one of the following ways:

## Online

*In advance, go to **ID.me** to set up an account for credentials:  
<https://www.id.me/individuals/government>*

***Then- AccessVA:** <https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/> using ID.me credentials.*

## Mail

VA form 28-1900 to : US Department of Veterans, Affairs, VR&E Intake Center, PO Box 5210, Janesville WI 54537.

## In Person

Contact your Local VR&E Office:  
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>



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# Vocational Rehabilitation in 75 Seconds

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sVG7ZI5DIg>





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