



# Vocational Rehabilitation

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

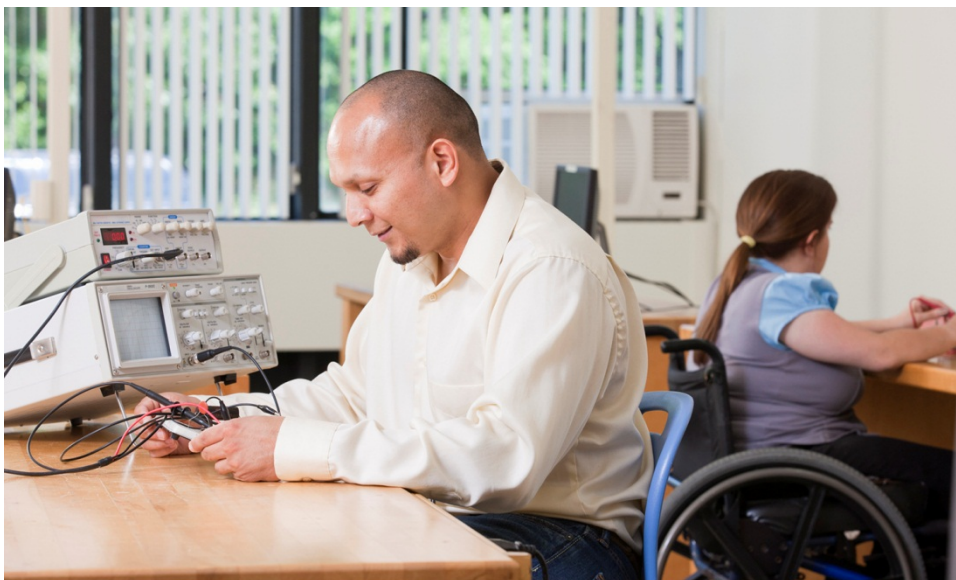
The VR&E Program operates under the mandate that for those Veterans who are unable to gain or secure employment due to their service-connected disabilities, the Nation they protected has a responsibility to help them build a new career.

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 1,324 employees serving Veterans

### Mission:

The Vocational Rehabilitation 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:

132,218 Veteran Participants  
 172,323 Veterans Receiving Evaluation and Counseling Services  
 12,128 Rehabilitations



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### Release history

Version & changes	Date
Data as of	09/30/2017



## 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 2017, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2017.

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



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## Chapter 36 Services

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment also provides career and vocational counseling to transitioning Servicemembers within six months of leaving the military, to Veterans who have left the military within the past 12 months, or at any time to individuals eligible to use a VA education benefit. In 2017, 9,231 Servicemembers and Veterans applied for Chapter 36 services.

These services are designed to provide Servicemembers and Veterans with personalized counseling and support to help guide career paths, ensure the most effective use of VA benefits, and achieve educational and career goals.

## Services Provided Through Other Benefit Chapters

Vocational Rehabilitation 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 2017, 190 beneficiaries and Veterans applied for services under these benefit chapters.



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## Quick Reference

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY 17

#### Veterans enrolling

Total applicants <sup>1</sup>	107,200
Eligible applicants	102,661
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) <sup>2</sup>	69,871
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	54,538
Entitled applicants (2017 only)	34,993
New plans of service (enrollments)	28,708

#### Veterans enrolled in a plan of services at the end of FY17

New plans of service (enrollments)	28,708
Persisting from prior years	70,559
Independent living rehabilitations	889
Employment rehabilitations	10,461
Education rehabilitations	778
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	586
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	2,814
Discontinued	17,423
<b>Veterans participating in a plan of services</b>	<b>132,218</b>

#### Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	132,218
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	40,105
<b>Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services</b>	<b>172,323</b>

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 31 only. 108,256 applications were submitted by 107,200 unique Servicemembers and Veterans in FY 17.

<sup>2</sup> Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 17 from Veterans that applied in FY 16.





## Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	172,323
Veterans applying – did not pursue counseling services	47,038
<b>Total VR&amp;E Veterans served</b>	<b>219,361</b>

## Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 17

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	102,778
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	29,154
Veterans participating in the VR&E program with gender data not available	286
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,218</b>

## Employment Handicaps

### Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 17

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	35,513	18,845	54,358
Participants	99,897	32,321	132,218
Rehabilitated	8,692	3,436	12,128

More than 75% 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.

## Subsistence 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.

### Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 17

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	65,921	73.5%
Graduate	13,073	14.6%
Vocational/ technical	4,906	5.5%
College, non-degree	2,105	2.3%
Extended evaluation/ independent living	1,754	2.0%
Non-paid work experience in government	1,221	1.4%
Paid on-the-job training	270	0.3%
Improvement of rehab potential	182	0.2%
Apprenticeship	135	0.2%
Farm Co-op	133	0.1%
Non-paid on-the-job training	33	0.0%
High school	2	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,735</b>	

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 Servicemembers with a disability by providing evaluation, rehabilitation services, training, and case management. Servicemembers 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	2	1,816	55,725	21,674	8,611	19,372	107,200
Participants	75	1,486	51,935	53,596	15,753	9,373	132,218
Rehabilitated	1	154	3,520	5,568	2,270	615	12,128

## Veterans by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total <sup>3</sup>
Applicants	485	19,483	39,448	13,127	12,857	9,227	6,465	6,102	107,200
Participants	171	16,359	48,946	16,332	18,158	13,930	10,016	8,305	132,218
Rehabilitated	0	868	4,956	1,503	1,689	1,336	889	887	12,128

## Veterans by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	14,109	56,870	921	16,622	18,578	100	107,200
Participants	17,023	70,810	1,024	20,972	22,272	117	132,218
Rehabilitated	1,720	6,132	97	1,987	2,185	7	12,128

## Veterans by period of service

	World War II	Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Peacetime	Gulf War Era	Other	Total <sup>4</sup>
Applicants	23	48	2,385	7,024	86,919	6,217	107,200
Participants	22	53	3,322	11,137	110,549	6,979	132,218
Rehabilitated	6	7	434	858	10,181	640	12,128

<sup>3</sup> Totals include 6 applicants and 1 participant unidentifiable by age.

<sup>4</sup> Totals include 4,584 applicants, 156 participants, and 2 rehabilitations where period of service was not available.





### Veterans by length of service<sup>5</sup>

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	414	483	28
3 - 6 mos.	1,408	1,807	138
6 mos. to 2 years	7,377	10,378	860
2 - 4 years	19,599	25,898	2,060
4 - 10 years	43,707	53,170	4,995
10 - 15 years	10,791	13,003	1,186
15 - 20 years	4,884	6,281	533
20 - 30 years	15,917	19,268	2,165
> 30 years	1,575	1,676	162
In service	1,496	252	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,200</b>	<b>132,218</b>	<b>12,128</b>

### Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating<sup>6</sup>

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	445	164	8
10%	5,954	4,718	402
20%	5,498	7,914	787
30%	7,664	11,176	1,177
40%	8,714	12,637	1,257
50%	8,134	11,551	1,112
60%	11,601	15,689	1,529
70%	13,086	16,712	1,524
80%	13,440	17,739	1,646
90%	11,955	14,896	1,272
100%	15,856	18,605	1,412
Memo rating <sup>7</sup>	1,916	417	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,200</b>	<b>132,218</b>	<b>12,128</b>

<sup>5</sup> Includes 32 applicants and 2 participants unidentifiable by length of service.

<sup>6</sup> Includes 2,937 applicants unidentifiable by combined service-connected disability rating

<sup>7</sup> 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.





## Rehabilitated Veterans

### Number of Veterans who were rehabilitated during FY 17

Category	Number <sup>8</sup>	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,685	22.1%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	9,407	77.6%
Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	8,692	71.7%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	3,436	28.3%
Total number of employment rehabilitations	10,461	86.3%
Total number of education rehabilitations	778	6.4%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	889	7.3%
<b>Total number of veterans rehabilitated in FY 17</b>		<b>12,128</b>

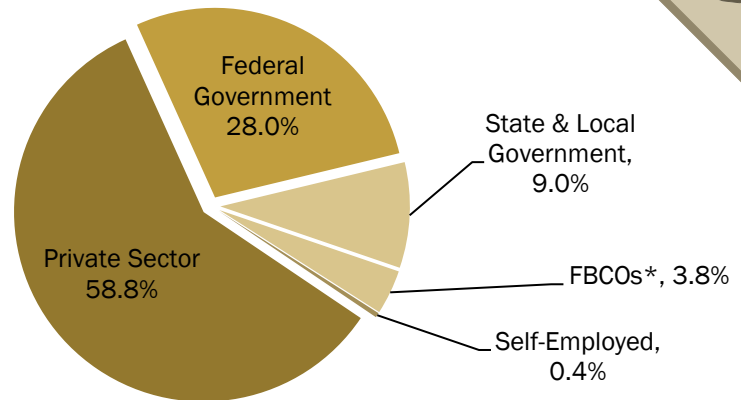
## VR&E Employment Outcomes



### FY 17 employment placements

The chart<sup>9</sup> on the right shows the percentages of the career fields where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 17.

\*FBCOs: faith-based & community organizations



### FY 17 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

Category	Number of Veterans	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation <sup>10</sup>
Professional, technical, and managerial	8,832	\$50,313.96
Machine Trades	474	\$35,513.09
Service	429	\$31,131.79
Clerical	377	\$38,853.54
Miscellaneous	267	\$35,948.99
Structural (building trades)	201	\$38,415.23
Sales	93	\$31,078.19
Processing (butcher, meat processor, etc.)	37	\$33,434.90
Agricultural, fishery, and forestry	23	\$25,901.42
<b>Total number and average wage</b>	<b>10,733</b>	<b>\$47,635</b>
Rehabs without full-time wages <sup>11</sup>	506	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,239</b>	

<sup>9</sup> Source: VR&E Program Management Reports: Career Outcomes by DOT

<sup>10</sup> Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

<sup>11</sup> Includes continuing education, part-time employment, volunteer, and unknown.



## Contact Information

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Information:

1-800-827-1000

### Annual Benefits Report (Office of Performance Analysis & Integrity)

202-461-9040

### Vets.gov

[www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)

### Department of Veterans Affairs home page

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### Veterans Benefits Administration home page

[benefits.va.gov](http://benefits.va.gov)

### eBenefits and Veteran Employment Center (Online forms and applications)

[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

### VR&E home page

[www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab)



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