



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits:

5 Tracks to Employment

Overview

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) is a Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) program. It supports Servicemembers leaving active duty due to medical issues, as well as Veterans with service-connected disabilities. The program provides comprehensive employment services and assistance. These services include:

- Vocational counseling
- Training
- Career placement
- Special rehabilitation services

VR&E is available to eligible active-duty Servicemembers, as well as National Guard or Reserve personnel, and Veterans.

What is a Rehabilitation Plan?

A rehabilitation plan details the services provided under VR&E for the Veteran or Servicemember. These plans are individualized to the recipient's specific needs. Each plan is a signed agreement between the recipient and their VA counselor. It is designed to help the recipient achieve their goals. A rehabilitation plan may include the following:

- Re-employment with the previous employer
- Rapid employment services for new employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long-term services
- Independent living services

What Are Some of the Features of the Re-employment Track?

This track is for individuals separated from active military service or in the National Guard or Reserves who want to return to work with their previous employers. This track may involve the need to modify the workplace to make it more accessible. The VA counselor and medical staff coordinate with the employer to communicate these needs. VA also provides the following services to ensure a successful return to work:

- Re-employment rights
- Advice
- Work-adjustment services
- Adaptive equipment
- Specialized consultations

What Are Some of the Features of the Rapid Access to Employment Track?

This track is for individuals who seek employment and already have the skills to be competitive in the job market. VA provides expert specialized assistance, including:

- Career-placement assistance
- Referrals
- Career-readiness assistance
- Resume development
- Career-search assistance
- Development of employment resources
- Job accommodations
- Short-term certificate training
- Post-employment follow-up

What Are Some of the Features of the Self-employment Track?

This track is for individuals who have the interest, skills, and resources to start their own business. This may also be the right track for those with limited access to traditional employment. Self-employment may also appeal to those who need a flexible work schedule or a more accommodating work environment. VR&E services may include:

- Developing a business plan
- Training in small business operations
- Marketing and financial assistance

- Guidance implementing a business plan
- Tuition for training and licensing fees
- Assistance with some start-up costs, as feasible
- Referral to Small Business Administration (SBA) centers

What Are Some of the Features of the Employment Through Long-term Services Track?

This track helps individuals obtain necessary job skills, including:

- Training or education for college or certifications
- On-the-job training
- Non-paid work experience
- Specialized testing and evaluation
- Job sharing
- Work monitoring
- Work study
- Public-private job partnering
- Apprenticeships
- Internships

VR&E provides tuition costs, books, fees and equipment. The program also provides a monthly allowance during training.

What Are Some of the Features of the Independent Living Services Track?

This track is for individuals who may not be able to go to work immediately due to a disability. VR&E can help recipients lead a more independent life through the following services:

- Obtaining a volunteer position
- Connecting with community-based support services
- Providing assistive devices
- Increased access within the home or community
- Help becoming more independent in daily living activities

VA will provide the necessary services or equipment needed to reach independent living goals.

Where Can You Find Additional Information About the Five Tracks to Employment?

For more information, call 800-827-1000 or visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/>.