




October 11, 2001

VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER 02-02

TO: ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS (RAVETS) AND DIRECTORS
FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (DVETS)
ALL STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCY
ADMINISTRATORS (SESAS)
ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (INFO)

FROM: 
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Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Veterans' Employment and Training

SUBJECT: Licensing and Certification Training Conference

Background: The Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) recognizes that many military personnel receive extensive occupational training and have gained practical hands-on experience during their military service. Unfortunately, after separating from the service, some veterans are unable to find civilian employment because the skills they acquired while in the military require a license or certification to work in the civilian labor workforce.

Many people do not understand the value of a license and certificate, nor do they understand what these terms mean.

Licenses are granted by Federal, State and local government agencies. Licenses are typically required to practice an occupation, and in order to obtain a license, an individual may have to meet any number of qualifications. Licensure is normally granted by a state certifying organization and can change dramatically from state to state.

Certification is the process by which a non-governmental agency or association grants recognition of competence to an individual who has met certain predetermined qualifications specified by that agency or association. Unlike licensure, certification is usually optional, but may enhance an individual's marketability to prospective employers.

VETS is developing a licensing and certification training course for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs). The objectives of the training are to provide: 1) a basic knowledge of licensure and certification; 2) an awareness of resources and tools available to assist military personnel, separating service members and veterans; 3) the skills necessary to assist veterans with their decision to seek employment opportunities that require a license or certification; and 4) an understanding of the gaps that exist between the military training and the civilian sector training requirements for licenses and certifications.

VETS is seeking State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) that are interested in holding a licensing and certification training conference in their state. The training conference must be held prior to June 30, 2002. All costs associated with the conference will be covered by the National Veterans Training Institute, including the cost of travel and hotel accommodations for DVOPs, LVERs and a limited number of senior management officials representing the employment and training community.

The SESAs are not required to develop a training curriculum. They only need to express an interest in having their DVOPs and LVERs become more knowledgeable about licensing and certification as a tool to assist veterans in finding better jobs. SESAs may want to identify licensure and certification requirements that are unique to their state or region. Any such information should be sent through the State Director for Veterans Employment and Training (DVET) to Heather Higgins in VETS National Office.

Actions Required:

1. SESAS wishing to hold a licensing and certification training conference must notify their DVET by October 24, 2001. Notification should include a suggested time frame for the training and estimated number of DVOPs and LVERs who will participate.
2. DVETs are to provide the state conference request to Heather Higgins in the National Office.
3. DVETs are to work with the State to obtain any state specific information on licensing and certification to be used in the training. Any such information should be forwarded to Heather Higgins at least one month prior to the conference.
4. VETS will notify the SESAS selected by November 15, 2001.