



Veteran Readiness

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

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 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



Nearly 350 locations nationwide, with over 1,500 employees serving Veterans

Mission:

The Veteran Readiness 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:

131,179 Veteran Participants

167,479 Veterans Receiving Evaluation and Counseling Services

12,099 Veteran Rehabilitations

\$1.6 Billion Paid to Beneficiaries



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Release history

Version & changes	Date
Data as of	09/30/2023



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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:** Most 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 ready to begin their new careers, VR&E assists Veterans 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2023.

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

Services Provided Through Other Benefit Chapters

Veteran Readiness 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 2023, 35 beneficiaries and Veterans applied for services under these benefit chapters.



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Quick Reference

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY 23

Veterans enrolling

Total applicants ¹	133,399
Eligible applicants ¹	131,916
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) ²	64,129
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	70,537
Entitled applicants (2023 only)	52,463
New plans of service (enrollments) ^{3,4}	39,000

Veterans enrolled in a plan of services at the end of FY 23^{5,6}

New plans of service (unique enrollments) ³	38,979
Persisting from prior years	52,710
Independent living rehabilitations	219
Employment rehabilitations	10,655
Education rehabilitations	1,225
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	552
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	4,421
Discontinued	22,418
Veterans participating in a plan of services	131,179

¹ Unique count of Chapter 31 only applicants.

² Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 23 from Veterans that applied in FY 22.

³ Includes Chapter 31 enrollments only.

⁴ Includes Veterans who entered a plan of services more than once in the same fiscal year.

⁵ Includes Chapter 18 and Chapter 35.

⁶ Unique count of rehabilitations.



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Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	131,179
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	36,300
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services	167,479

Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	167,479
Veterans applying – did not pursue counseling services	61,580
Total VR&E Veterans served	229,059

Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 23

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	96,258
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	34,585
Veterans participating in the VR&E program with gender data not available	336
Total	131,179





Employment Handicaps

Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 23

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	26,895	25,568	52,463
Participants	87,898	43,281	131,179
Rehabilitated	7,678	4,421	12,099

67 percent 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.

Beneficiary 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.

FY 23 VR&E appropriations

Obligations	2023 Actual (Dollars in thousands)
Subsistence Allowance	\$735,107
Books, Tuition, Supplies, Fees	\$828,140
Total	\$1,563,247





Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 23

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	68,566	73.5%
Graduate	15,281	16.4%
Vocational/Technical	4,491	4.8%
College, Non-Degree	2,533	2.7%
Improvement of Rehab Potential	790	0.8%
Extended Evaluation/Independent Living	906	1.0%
Non-paid Work Experience in Government	198	0.2%
Apprenticeship	358	0.4%
Paid On-the-Job Training	182	0.2%
Farm Co-op	19	0.2%
Non-paid On-the-Job Training	21	0.0%
High School	1	0.0%
Total	93,346	100%

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 Service members with a disability by providing evaluation, rehabilitation services, training, and case management. Service members are not eligible for subsistence allowance payments until they have completed their separation from the military and are considered a Veteran.



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VR&E Veteran Demographics

Veterans by prior education level

	Data not available	Below high school	High school	Post high school	Four-year degree	Graduate degree training	Total
Applicants	5,860	2,395	34,810	59,581	2,847	37,645	143,138 ⁷
Participants	5	1,991	53,576	43,843	4,749	27,015	131,179
Rehabilitated	0	146	5,898	2,693	615	2,747	12,099

Veterans by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total ⁸
Applicants	857	31,321	50,207	21,556	13,620	10,939	7,317	7,308	143,138
Participants	334	21,718	51,373	20,649	13,656	10,896	6,832	5,721	131,179
Rehabilitated	1	1,108	5,491	2,054	1,356	1,070	594	425	12,099

Veterans by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	18,825	66,119	1,409	21,723	27,975	7,087	143,138
Participants	17,540	65,042	1,277	22,127	24,714	479	131,179
Rehabilitated	1,664	6,018	140	2,089	2,182	6	12,099

Veterans by period of service

	World War II	Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Peacetime	Gulf War Era	Other	Total ⁹
Applicants	27	6	484	2,174	72,735	7,371	143,138
Participants	29	10	526	3,356	101,216	8,285	131,179
Rehabilitated	2	2	57	222	9,608	775	12,099

⁷ Applicant Totals include Chapters 18, 31, 35, 36, 1606. This is a change starting with the FY 2023 Annual Benefits Report.

⁸ Includes 13 applicants unidentifiable by age.

⁹ Totals include 60,341 applicants, 17,757 participants, and 1,433 rehabilitations where period of services was unknown.



Veterans by length of service

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	789	708	44
3 - 6 mos.	2,534	2,151	134
6 mos. to 2 years	11,568	11,119	830
2 - 4 years	26,269	25,730	2,133
4 - 10 years	63,406	58,934	5,642
10 - 15 years	11,946	11,622	1,175
15 - 20 years	4,735	4,781	462
20 - 30 years	16,017	13,970	1,559
> 30 years	1,442	1,180	119
In service	3,769	984	1
Total¹⁰	143,138	131,179	12,099

Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	179	26	1
10%	4,800	1,617	145
20%	3,299	2,693	304
30%	4,492	4,235	459
40%	5,481	5,623	570
50%	5,684	5,761	587
60%	9,406	9,541	1,027
70%	13,784	13,749	1,342
80%	16,676	17,222	1,638
90%	20,409	19,941	1,760
100%	51,882	49,709	4,265
Memo rating ¹¹	7,046	1,062	1
Total	143,138	131,179	12,099

¹⁰ Includes 663 applicants unidentifiable by length of service.

¹¹ 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 23

Category	Number ¹²	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,996	24.8%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	9,074	75.2%

Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	7,678	63.5%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	4,421	36.5%

Total number of employment rehabilitations	10,655	88.1%
Total number of education rehabilitations	1,225	10.1%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	219	1.8%
Total number of Veterans rehabilitated in FY 23	12,099	

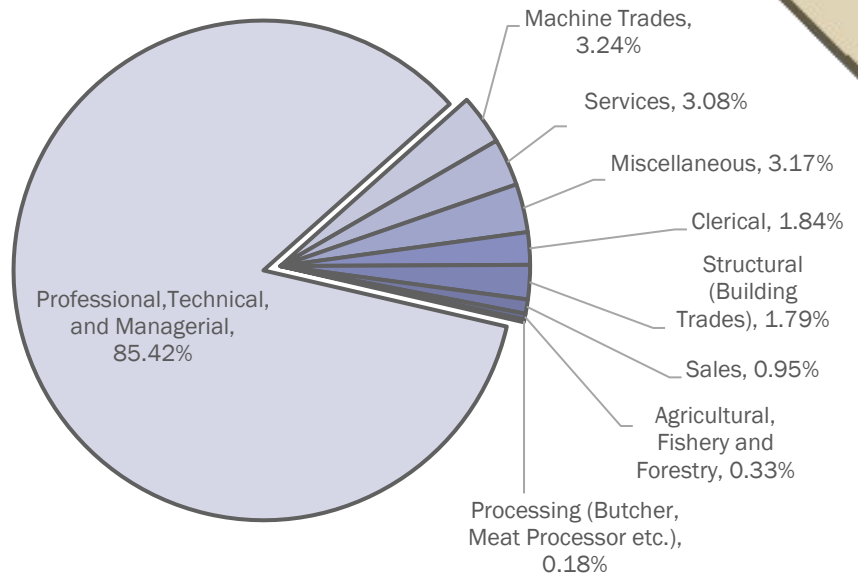
¹² Excludes 29 rehabilitations where gender data was not available.



VR&E Employment Outcomes

FY 23 career categories¹³

The chart to the right shows the percentages of the career categories where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 23. Approximately 85 percent of Veterans found work under Professional, Technical, and Managerial occupations.



FY 23 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

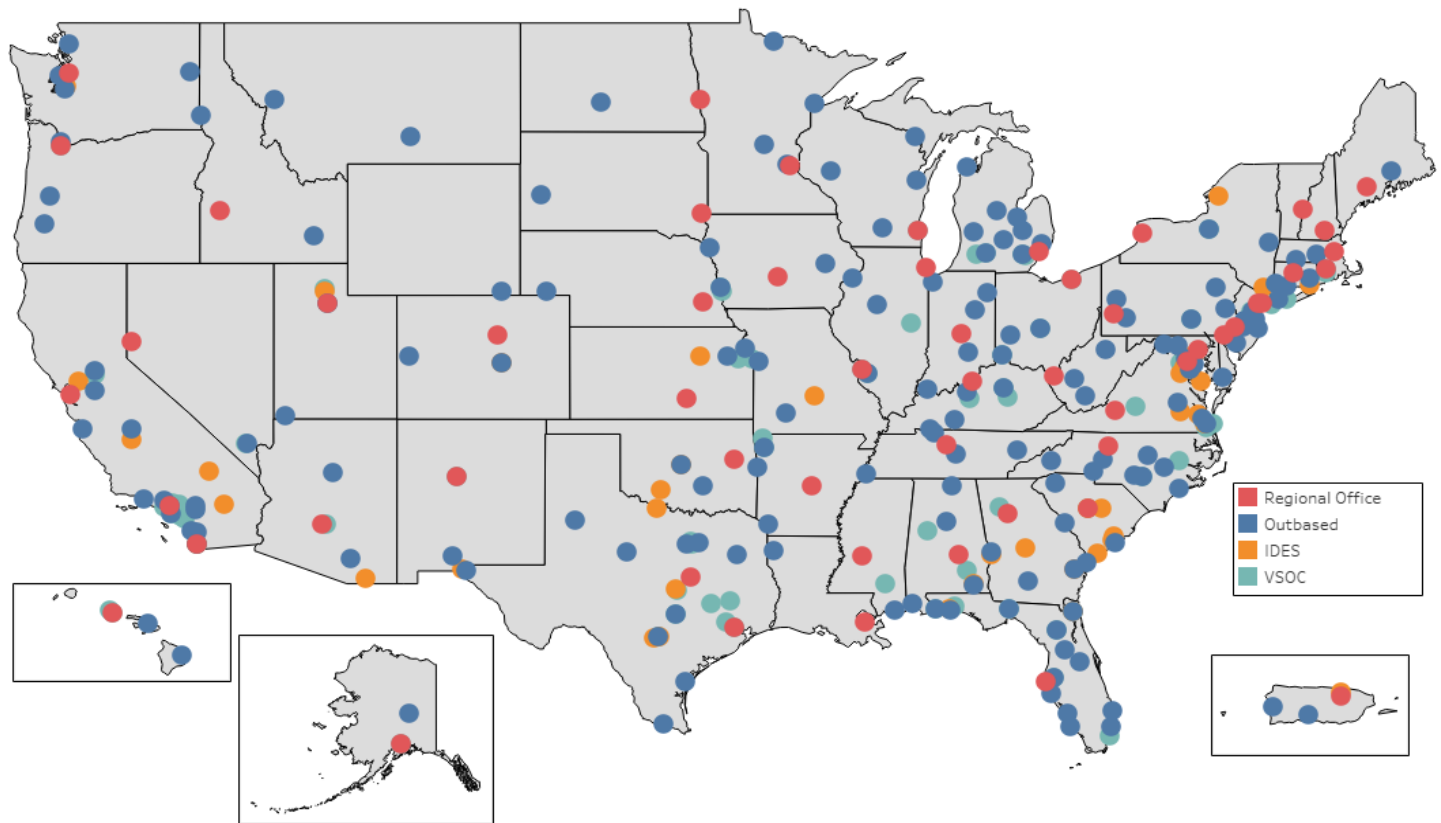
Category	Number of Veterans	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation ¹⁴
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	9,461	\$68,424.41
Machine Trades	359	\$55,157.53
Services	341	\$48,210.30
Miscellaneous	351	\$54,182.29
Clerical	204	\$48,884.30
Structural (Building Trades)	198	\$55,974.42
Sales	105	\$50,398.10
Agricultural, Fishery and Forestry	37	\$39,360.41
Processing (Butcher, Meat Processor etc.)	20	\$46,508.72
Total number and average wage	11,076	\$66,030.72
Rehabs without full-time wages ¹⁵	804	
Total	11,880	

¹³ Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

¹⁴ Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

¹⁵ Includes continuing education, part-time employment, volunteer, and unknown.

Appendix – Map of VR&E Locations



Visit the [VA Regional Offices Websites](https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp) page (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>) for regional office, Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES), and out-based locations.

Visit the [VetSuccess on Campus \(VSOC\)](https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp) page (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>) for VSOC locations and counselor contact information.

Contact Information

Veteran Readiness and Employment Information:

1-800-827-1000

Annual Benefits Report (Office of Performance Analysis & Integrity)

202-461-9040

Department of Veterans Affairs home page

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Online forms and applications

<http://www.va.gov>

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