



# Vocational Rehabilitation

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

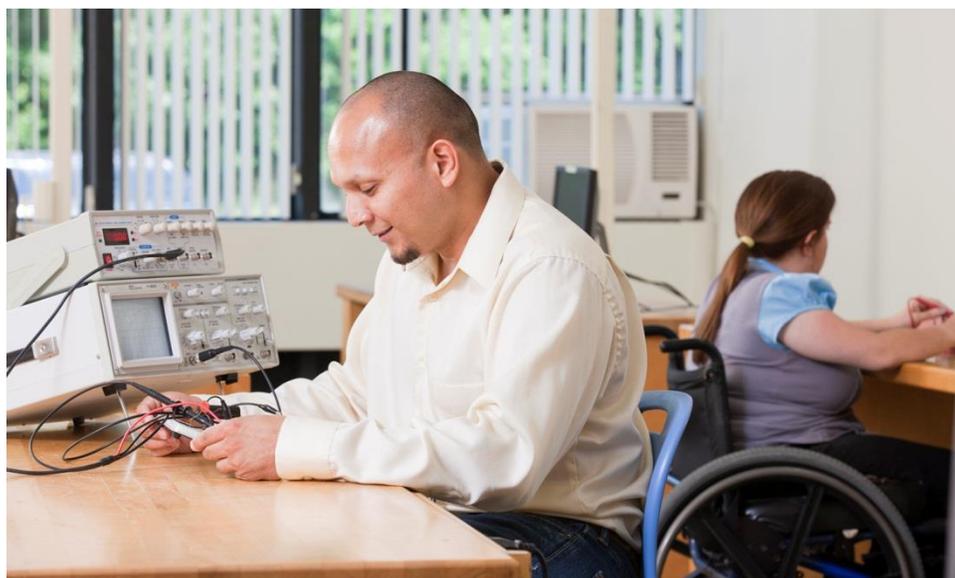
The VR&E Program operates under the mandate that for those Veterans who are unable to gain or secure employment due to their service-connected disabilities, the Nation they protected has a responsibility to help them build a new career.

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 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 1,472 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:

- 122,249 Veteran Participants
- 163,040 Veterans Receiving Evaluation and Counseling Services
- 12,231 Rehabilitations



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### Release history

Version & changes	Date
Data as of	09/30/2019



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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:** 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 2019, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2019.

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 2019, 6,353 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 2019, 158 beneficiaries and Veterans applied for services under these benefit chapters.



Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY 19

Veterans enrolling

Total applicants <sup>1</sup>	112,848
Eligible applicants	109,751
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) <sup>2</sup>	70,869
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	53,392
Entitled applicants (2019 only)	36,999
New plans of service (enrollments)	29,799

Veterans enrolled in a plan of services at the end of FY19<sup>3</sup>

New plans of service (enrollments)	29,799
Persisting from prior years	65,879
Independent living rehabilitations	475
Employment rehabilitations	10,939
Education rehabilitations	819
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	736
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	3,820
Discontinued	9,782
<b>Veterans participating in a plan of services</b>	<b>122,249</b>

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 31 only.

<sup>2</sup> Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 19 from Veterans that applied in FY 18.

<sup>3</sup> Includes 1 Chapter 35 employment rehabilitation and 1 Chapter 35 education rehabilitation not reflected in subsequent rehabilitation totals.





### Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	122,249
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	40,791
<b>Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services</b>	<b>163,040</b>

### Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	163,040
Veterans applying – did not pursue counseling services	56,151
<b>Total VR&amp;E Veterans served</b>	<b>219,191</b>

### Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 19

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	93,585
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	28,449
Veterans participating in the VR&E program with gender data not available	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,249</b>



## Employment Handicaps



### Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 19

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	32,516	20,876	53,392
Participants	88,446	33,803	122,249
Rehabilitated	8,276	3,955	12,231

Seventy-two 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 2019 VR&E appropriations

Obligations	2019 Actual (dollars in thousands)
Subsistence Allowance	\$625,587
Books, Tuition, Supplies, Fees	\$762,027
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,387,614</b>



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### Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 19

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	62,962	73.4%
Graduate	13,071	15.2%
Vocational/Technical	4,924	5.7%
College, Non-Degree	2,020	2.4%
Extended Evaluation/Independent Living	1,138	1.3%
Non-paid Work Experience in Government	992	1.2%
Paid On-the-Job Training	269	0.3%
Apprenticeship	222	0.3%
Farm Co-op	90	0.1%
Improvement of Rehab Potential	89	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,777</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	4	2,250	63,524	18,620	6,498	21,952	112,848
Participants	14	1,525	57,113	37,636	10,375	15,586	122,249
Rehabilitated	0	135	4,752	4,465	1,553	1,326	12,231

## Veterans by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total <sup>4</sup>
Applicants	624	17,744	42,181	14,940	12,952	10,257	7,221	6,928	112,848
Participants	245	15,087	49,734	15,794	14,941	11,875	8,070	6,501	122,249
Rehabilitated	0	980	5,501	1,646	1,570	1,194	712	628	12,231

## Veterans by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	15,049	58,933	980	17,546	20,241	99	112,848
Participants	15,849	64,875	1,061	20,331	20,057	76	122,249
Rehabilitated	1,717	6,245	97	2,148	2,011	13	12,231

## Veterans by period of service

	World War II	Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Peacetime	Gulf War Era	Other	Total <sup>5</sup>
Applicants	31	30	1,150	4,101	65,669	5,839	112,848
Participants	21	29	1,365	5,856	94,011	6,920	122,249
Rehabilitated	2	9	181	421	9,394	714	12,231

<sup>4</sup> Totals include 1 applicant and 2 participants unidentifiable by age.

<sup>5</sup> Totals include 36,028 applicants, 14,047 participants, and 1,510 rehabilitations where period of service was not available.



### Veterans by length of service<sup>6</sup>

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	558	508	39
3 - 6 mos.	1,667	1,768	133
6 mos. to 2 years	9,406	10,199	805
2 - 4 years	21,228	23,892	2,174
4 - 10 years	47,106	51,032	5,299
10 - 15 years	10,402	11,816	1,233
15 - 20 years	4,492	5,385	545
20 - 30 years	15,428	16,043	1,860
> 30 years	1,505	1,421	142
In service	1,030	185	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,848</b>	<b>122,249</b>	<b>12,231</b>

### Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating<sup>7</sup>

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	229	40	7
10%	5324	2,916	292
20%	4533	5,153	566
30%	6547	7,908	903
40%	7685	9,378	1,080
50%	7398	9,040	972
60%	10,913	13,242	1,448
70%	13,622	15,717	1,583
80%	14,778	17,343	1,783
90%	14,186	16,200	1,551
100%	24,690	25,008	2,045
Memo rating <sup>8</sup>	1,221	304	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,848</b>	<b>122,249</b>	<b>12,231</b>

<sup>6</sup> Includes 26 applicants unidentifiable by length of service.

<sup>7</sup> Includes 1,722 applicants unidentifiable by combined service-connected disability rating.

<sup>8</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 19

Category	Number <sup>9</sup>	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,679	21.9%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	9,526	77.9%

Category	Number	Percent of total
Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	8,276	67.7%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	3,955	32.3%

Category	Number	Percent of total
Total number of employment rehabilitations	10,938	89.4%
Total number of education rehabilitations	818	6.7%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	475	3.9%

Total number of veterans rehabilitated in FY 19	12,231
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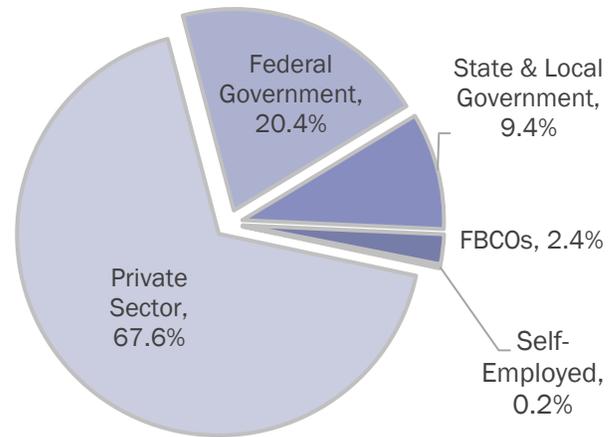
<sup>9</sup> Excludes 26 rehabilitations where gender data was not available.



## VR&E Employment Outcomes

### FY 19 employment placements<sup>10</sup>

The chart on the right shows the percentages of the career fields where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 19.



### FY 19 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

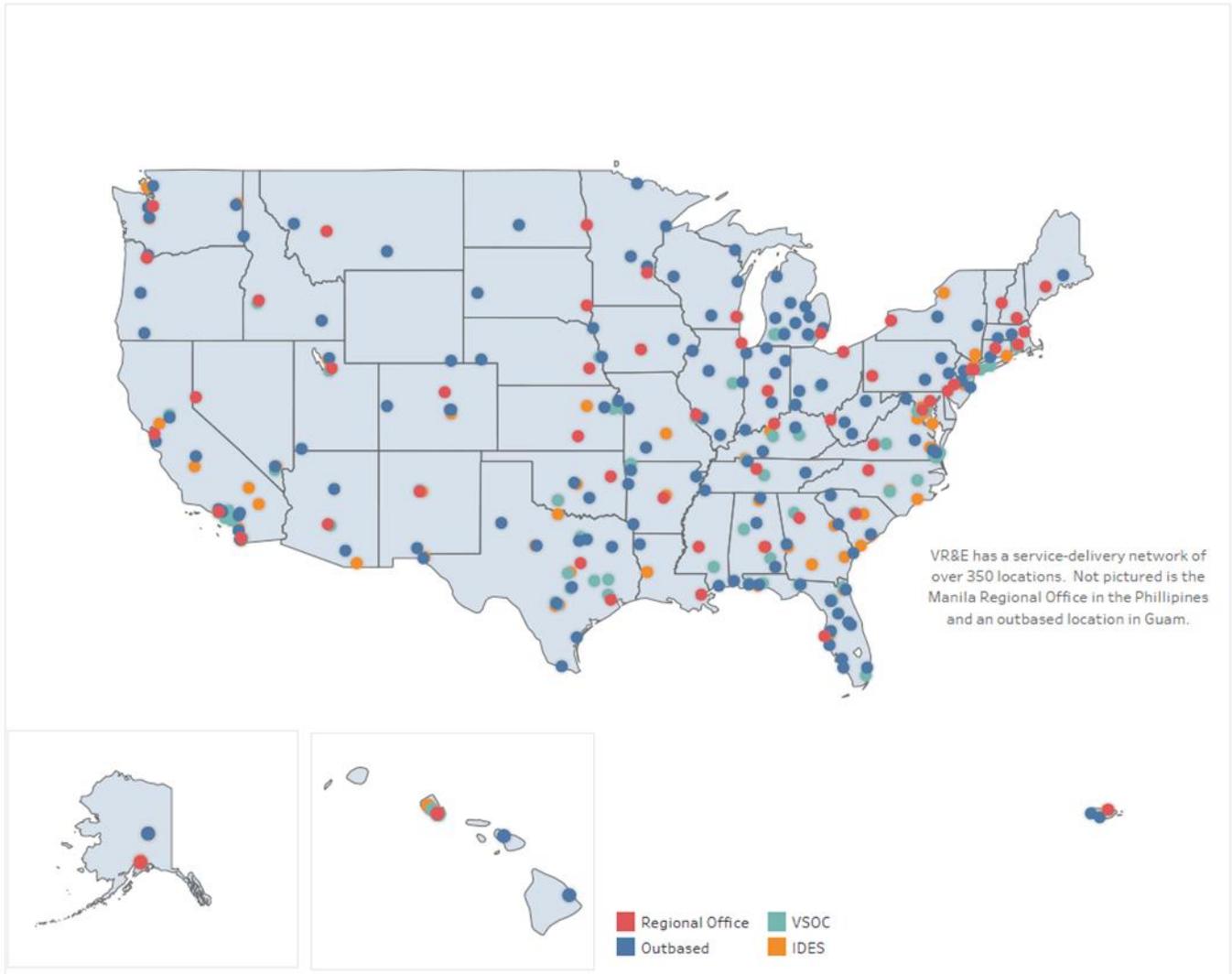
Category	Number of Veterans	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation <sup>11</sup>
Professional, technical, and managerial	9,445	\$55,327
Machine Trades	421	\$37,339
Service	403	\$36,502
Miscellaneous	304	\$42,025
Clerical	262	\$34,620
Structural (Building Trades)	201	\$42,038
Sales	129	\$50,816
Agricultural, Fishery and Forestry	35	\$29,511
Processing (Butcher, Meat Processor etc.)	23	\$42,807
<b>Total number and average wage</b>	<b>11,223</b>	<b>\$52,733</b>
Rehabs without full-time wages <sup>12</sup>	533	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,756</b>	

<sup>10</sup> FBCOs: Faith-based & community organizations.

<sup>11</sup> Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

<sup>12</sup> Includes continuing education, part-time employment, volunteer, and unknown.

## Appendix – Map of VR&E Locations



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## Contact Information

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Information:

1-800-827-1000

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

202-461-9040

### 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 (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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