



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 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



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:

- 124,437 Veteran Participants
- 151,804 Veterans Receiving Evaluation and Counseling Services
- 11,810 Veteran Rehabilitations



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Release history

Version & changes	Date
Data as of	09/30/2022



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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 2022, including those who were successfully rehabilitated or who discontinued their program of services in FY 2022.

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 2022, 30 beneficiaries and Veterans applied for services under these benefit chapters.



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Quick Reference

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Activities FY 22

Veterans enrolling

Total applicants ¹	105,054
Eligible applicants	99,346
Completed evaluation (including prior year carry over) ²	66,578
Entitled applicants (including prior year carry over)	55,918
Entitled applicants (2022 only)	43,127
New plans of service (enrollments) ³	30,623

Veterans enrolled in a plan of services at the end of FY 22^{4,5}

New plans of service (Unique enrollments)	30,592
Persisting from prior years	68,608
Independent living rehabilitations	234
Employment rehabilitations	10,673
Education rehabilitations	903
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employed	586
Maximum Rehabilitation Gain (MRG) – employable	4,327
Discontinued	8,514
Veterans participating in a plan of services	124,437

¹ Unique count of Chapter 31 only applicants

² Prior year carry over represents applications or evaluations completed by VR&E in FY 22 from Veterans that applied in FY 21.

³ Includes Veterans who entered a plan of services more than once in the same fiscal year.

⁴ Includes Chapter 18 and Chapter 35.

⁵ Unique count of rehabilitations. Does not include one participant who rehabilitated twice in FY 22.



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Veterans receiving evaluation and counseling services

Veterans participating in a plan of services	124,437
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services – did not enter a plan of services	27,367
Veterans that received evaluation and counseling services	151,804

Total VR&E Veterans served

Status	Total
Veterans receiving counseling services	151,804
Veterans applying – did not pursue counseling services	49,495
Total VR&E Veterans served	201,299

Veterans receiving VR&E benefits at the end of FY 22

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are male	92,330
Veterans participating in the VR&E program who are female	31,833
Veterans participating in the VR&E program with gender data not available	274
Total	124,437



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Employment Handicaps

Veterans with serious employment handicaps during FY 22

Case status	Veterans with a serious employment handicap	Veterans with an employment handicap	All Veterans
Entitled applicants	29,624	26,294	55,918
Participants	85,337	39,100	124,437
Rehabilitated	7,541	4,269	11,810

Nearly 70 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 22 VR&E appropriations

Obligations	2022 Actual (dollars in thousands)
Subsistence Allowance	\$594,181
Books, Tuition, Supplies, Fees	\$869,002
Total	\$1,463,183





Veterans who received subsistence as part of a training program during FY 22

Program	Total	Percent of total
Undergraduate	61,429	68.7%
Graduate	17,582	19.7%
Vocational/Technical	5,362	6.0%
College, Non-Degree	2,591	2.9%
Improvement of Rehab Potential	857	1.0%
Extended Evaluation/Independent Living	554	0.6%
Non-paid Work Experience in Government	332	0.4%
Apprenticeship	379	0.4%
Paid On-the-Job Training	214	0.2%
Farm Co-op	49	0.1%
Non-paid On-the-Job Training	22	0.0%
Total	89,371	

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	0	1,919	30,163	41,425	2,732	28,815	105,054
Participants	5	1,880	60,481	32,458	5,786	23,827	124,437
Rehabilitated	0	168	6,253	2,431	713	2,245	11,810

Veterans by age

	17 - 21	22 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 and above	Total ⁶
Applicants	718	20,548	37,922	15,597	10,411	8,737	5,576	5,543	105,054
Participants	352	17,662	50,237	19,138	13,297	11,273	6,791	5,687	124,437
Rehabilitated	0	1,016	5,451	1,916	1,328	1,064	581	454	11,810

Veterans by branch of service

	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marine Corps	Navy	Other	Total
Applicants	14,276	52,476	1,021	16,828	20,377	76	105,054
Participants	16,752	63,399	1,195	20,892	22,152	47	124,437
Rehabilitated	1,663	5,821	115	2,202	2,007	2	11,810

Veterans by period of service

	World War II	Korean Conflict	Vietnam Era	Peacetime	Gulf War Era	Other	Total ⁷
Applicants	8	5	488	2,207	57,663	5,350	105,054
Participants	23	12	657	3,782	97,367	7,575	124,437
Rehabilitated	1	1	74	274	9,467	716	11,810

⁶ Includes 2 applicants unidentifiable by age.

⁷ Totals include 39,333 applicants, 15,021 participants, and 1,277 rehabilitations where period of services was unknown.



Veterans by length of service

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
Less than 3 mos.	589	670	48
3 - 6 mos.	1,753	2,004	150
6 mos. to 2 years	8,529	10,634	796
2 - 4 years	19,649	24,494	2,087
4 - 10 years	45,934	54,188	5,383
10 - 15 years	8,994	11,432	1,172
15 - 20 years	3,686	4,820	452
20 - 30 years	12,147	13,998	1,582
> 30 years	1,143	1,246	140
In service	2,599	951	0
Total⁸	105,054	124,437	11,810

Veterans by combined service-connected disability rating

	Applicants	Participants	Rehabilitated
0%	126	34	1
10%	3,819	1,816	170
20%	2,716	3,134	342
30%	3,789	4,854	552
40%	4,722	6,341	699
50%	4,843	6,406	713
60%	7,661	10,171	1,110
70%	10,890	14,195	1,318
80%	12,706	16,872	1,676
90%	14,523	18,295	1,717
100%	35,167	40,976	3,512
Memo rating ⁹	3,256	1,343	0
Total¹⁰	105,054	124,437	11,810

⁸ Includes 31 applicants unidentifiable by length of service.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Includes 836 applicants unidentifiable by combined service-connected disability rating.



Rehabilitated Veterans

Number of Veterans who were rehabilitated during FY 22

Category	Number ¹¹	Percent of total
Number of female Veterans who were rehabilitated	2,761	23.4%
Number of male Veterans who were rehabilitated	9,022	76.4%

Disabled Veterans with serious employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	7,541	63.9%
Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps who were rehabilitated	4,269	36.1%

Total number of employment rehabilitations	10,673	90.4%
Total number of education rehabilitations	903	7.6%
Total number of independent living rehabilitations	234	2.0%
Total number of Veterans rehabilitated in FY 2022	11,810	

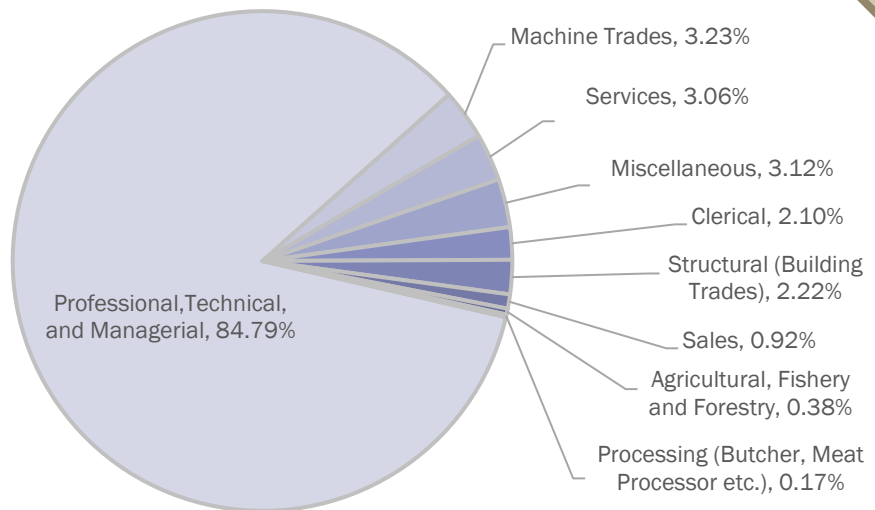
¹¹ Excludes 27 rehabilitations where gender data was not available.



VR&E Employment Outcomes

FY 22 career categories¹²

The chart to the right shows the percentages of the career categories where VR&E Veterans found work in FY 22. Approximately 85 percent of Veterans found work under Professional, Technical, and Managerial occupations.



FY 22 career categories of rehabilitated Veterans

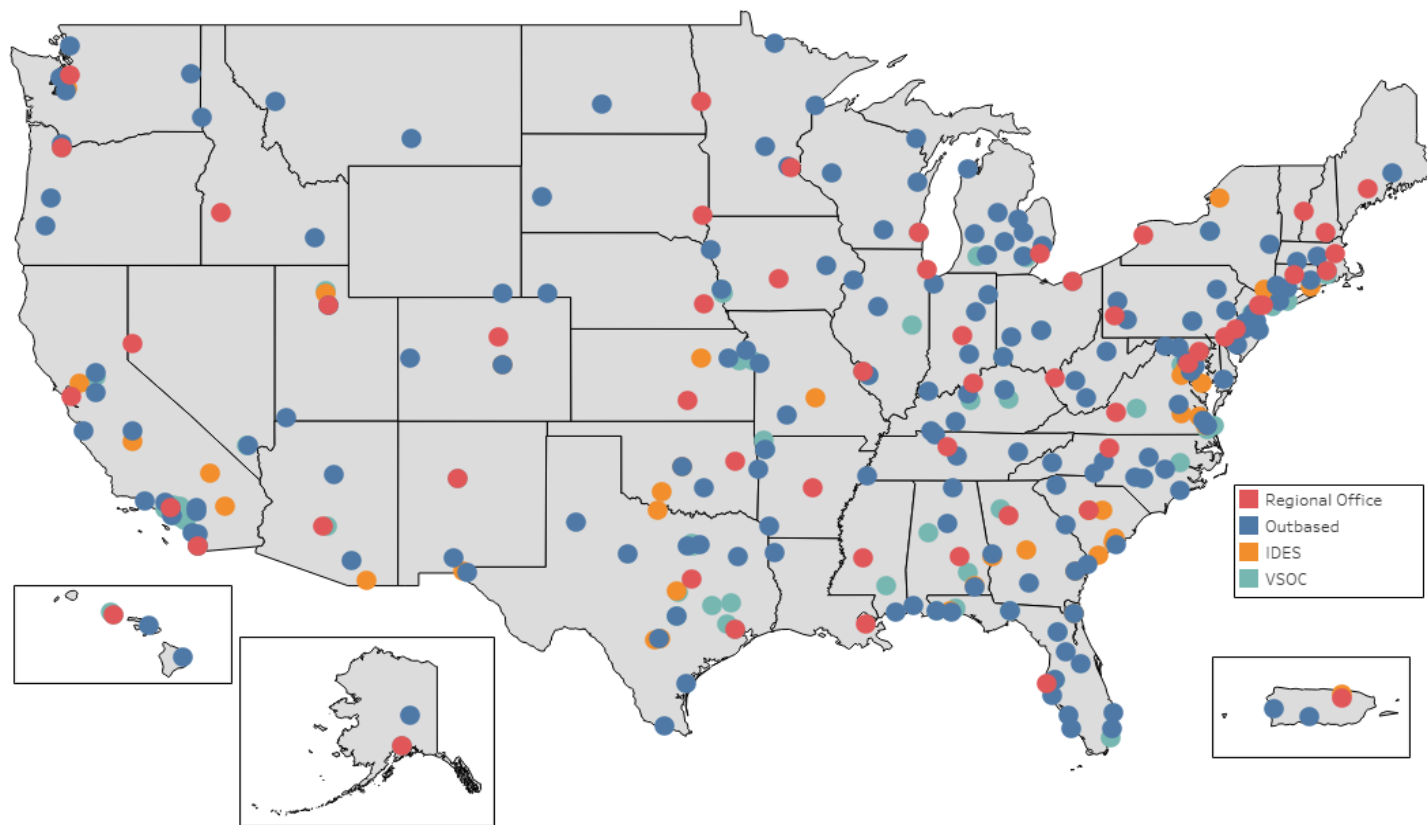
Category	Number of Veterans	Avg. annual wages at rehabilitation ¹³
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	9,335	\$61,300.47
Machine Trades	356	\$44,611.24
Services	337	\$47,463.49
Miscellaneous	344	\$49,565.14
Clerical	231	\$42,237.60
Structural (Building Trades)	244	\$55,440.98
Sales	101	\$40,838.33
Agricultural, Fishery and Forestry	42	\$48,666.14
Processing (Butcher, Meat Processor etc.)	19	\$34,244.50
Total number and average wage	11,009	\$59,148.93
Rehabs without full-time wages ¹⁴	567	NA
Total	11,576	

¹² Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

¹³ Excludes Veterans rehabilitated in independent living.

¹⁴ 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)

212-461-9040

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