OVERVIEW & PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS

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Presentation Objectives

At the end of this presentation:

- Understand the background of VRRAP and the steps that VBA Education Service is taking to implement the program

- You should understand the reasons VA chose to create a School Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement form for VRRAP

- Understand the most important elements of the VRRAP Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement form
The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) was enacted on March 11, 2021, effective immediately. VRRAP is part of the America Rescue Plan of 2021, a $1.9 trillion economic stimulus package, with aid targeted to help individuals and businesses recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible Veterans participating in VRRAP will receive up to 12 months of tuition and fees and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill® rates. Covered education programs must provide training for a high-demand occupation, which is determined by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics. GI Bill® approved programs of education, excluding bachelor’s and graduate degrees, and VET TEC approved training are eligible.

The program ends 21 months after enactment and is limited to a maximum of 17,250 participants or $386M.
Implementation

EDU is working with internal and external stakeholders, to address four key areas to fully implement the program:

- **Application for Benefits** – There is no existing application for Veterans to apply for VRRAP benefits.

- **Management Solution** – VRRAP is distinct from other GI Bill® benefits programs, and there is currently no system available to manage the program and calculate benefits.

- **Participation Agreements** – EDU will require educational institutions to agree to the terms and specify which programs are covered, in order to participate in VRRAP.

- **Payment Solution** – The law, as written, requires VRRAP benefits to be paid from General Operating Expense (GOE) funds. Other GI Bill® programs are paid via Readjustment Benefits Account (RBA) funds.
Achievements to Date

EDU has already taken several steps to deploy VRRAP

- EDU stood up an integrated project team solely focused on implementing and administering this program; associated processing and payment work will be completed at the Muskogee Regional Processing Office (RPO).

- The Department of Labor provided a final High Demand Occupation List, confirmation on available data, information pertaining to jobs programs, and outreach and communications materials.

- EDU finalized and communicated the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement, VA Form 22-10271.

- EDU updated the VBA website with VRRAP information.
Notional Timeline


- **Phase 2** – EDU released the High-Demand Occupations List with educational institutions and students on **March 29, 2021**.

- **Phase 3** – EDU communicated the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement, VA Form 22-10271, with potential training providers on **April 5, 2021**.

- **Phase 4** – EDU plans to launch the Veteran Application for Benefits and begin enrolling Veterans into the program - **TBD**
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

VA FORM 22-10271
VA Form 22-10271

VETERAN REENTRY RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRAP) Participation Agreement and Acknowledgment

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2 AND 3 BEFORE COMPLETING THE FORM

NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

MAILING ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION

AGREEMENT TYPE (CHECK):

☐ 60-DAY DEAD-LINE HONORARY

☐ MODIFICATION TO BOOTHING AGREEMENT

☐ TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

The above named educational institution agrees to participate in VRAP, established by section 5055 (60 USC Sec. 1711) with respect to the approved list of covered programs, subject to the terms, conditions and representations provided in this agreement and the provisions of law, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations, and policies governing the program.

1. If this agreement is accepted by VA, it will be considered an accepted agreement that is in effect until VA or the institution notifies the other party of changes, or in the case of late signing (i.e., late participation) of VRAP, is reached. It will serve as acknowledgment that the educational institution will certify the enrollment of eligible veterans for benefit payments under VRAP.

2. This agreement serves as an agreement between the educational institution and the VA to adhere to VRAP reporting and payment requirements. It does not create a separate approval for VA education assistance benefits. Only institutions approved to enroll veterans in programs of education for the purpose of VA education assistance benefits (i.e., GI Bill benefits under chapter 30, 31, 33, 53, or 51) are eligible to receive VRAP funds under the VA High Tech Program (commonly referred to as "VET TEC"), as specified in the instruction at section 20.32. United States Code (USC) only participates in VRAP.

3. The terms of this agreement will be available for public viewing on VA GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov.

4. An educational institution with multiple campuses may submit a single agreement and Acknowledgment covering more than one campus by attaching an addendum to this agreement listing all campuses. The list must include the name, address, and facility code of each campus. The institution must certify that all campuses covered under this agreement are subject to the authority of the authorizing official signing the agreement.

5. The educational institution agrees to certify "enrolled" eligible veterans under VRAP in the following programs:

(A) Programs must not lead to a baccalaureate or graduate degree and must lead to enrollment in a high-demand occupation.

A. PROGRAM TYPE

   Associate or Certificate

B. PROGRAM NAME

C. RELATED HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATION

6. By signing this agreement, with the original signature of an official legally authorized to bind the educational institution to this agreement, the institution agrees:

   a. Agreeing to certify upon the veteran’s enrollment the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program of education to VA, as set forth, for an eligible veteran.

   b. Acknowledging that VA will pay the actual net cost for tuition and fees.

   c. Authorizing VA to pay for expenses meeting the criteria as defined in the VA High Tech Program (VET TEC) program as specified in the instruction at section 20.32. United States Code (USC) only participates in VRAP.

   d.若干 of the amount paid to date if the veteran fails to complete the program or if the veteran withdraws or fails to complete the program for reasons not satisfactory to VA.

   e. That VA will pay the amount of GI Bill benefits for the entire program of education covered under this agreement.

   f. That the amount paid to date will be returned to VA if the veteran withdraws or fails to complete the program for reasons not satisfactory to VA.

   g. That the amount paid to date will be returned to VA if the veteran fails to complete the program.

7. The VRAP program is designed to assist veterans in obtaining new or additional skills necessary to gain employment in a high-demand occupation.

8. POINTS OF Contact:

   a. School Financial Representative

   b. School Certifying Official

   c. Signature of Authorizing Official

   d. Date Signed

   e. FOR VA USE ONLY

   f. Signature of VA Official

   g. Date Signed
Why use a “Participation Agreement and Acknowledgement?”

- VRRAP has a unique payment structure.
- VRRAP has additional tracking and reporting requirements, required for the facility to receive payments.
- VRRAP will use a unique invoicing system, requiring facilities to register and obtain access prior to payment.
- Some facilities may be prohibited from participation and not all programs are allowed

It is important that facilities acknowledge these factors before committing to the program.
By submitting this agreement with the original signature of an official legally authorized to bind the educational institution to this agreement, the institution is-

- Agreeing to certify upon the Veteran’s enrollment the actual net cost for tuition and fees for the entire program of education for an eligible Veteran;

- Acknowledging that VA will pay for the actual net cost for tuition and fees-
  - Based on the provisions of section 3313(c)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, including the Academic Year cap applicable for programs pursued at private or foreign schools;
  - On a staggered basis when specific milestones are met;
    - 50% upon enrollment;
    - 25% upon completion of the program;
    - 25% at employment
  - On a prorated basis if the student fails to complete the program;
Unique Payment Structure

- Agreeing to not seek payment from an eligible Veteran who fails to complete a program and/or fails to find employment in a related field within 180 days of completing or withdrawing from a program for any amounts that VA would have paid to your institution had the Veteran completed the program and found employment within 180 days.

- Agreeing to invoice the VA through the Tungsten Network for Payment of Tuition. One Invoice will be submitted per veteran at the following points,
  - the student begins attending courses,
  - the student completes their program of education, and
  - the student gains employment in the field of study.

- To Invoice VA, schools must register for the Tungsten Network. Instructions on how to register can be found [HERE](#), along with additional information and training videos on how to utilize the application.

- Prior to Invoicing VA, all educational institutions must be Vendorized. To request Vendorization, follow instructions found on VA Form 10091.
The educational institution agrees to certify enrolled eligible Veterans under VRRAP in the following programs:

- Programs approved for VA educational assistance under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, that do not lead to a bachelor’s or graduate degree and are designed to provide training for a high-demand occupation

  (NOTE: See list of high-demand occupations compiled by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics)

- High technology programs of education offered by a qualified provider, under the meaning given such terms in section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. § 3001 note), generally referred to as “VET TEC.”

  (NOTE: By law, in the case of an accredited program of education, a program of education is not considered a covered program of education under VRRAP if the program has received a show cause order from the accreditor of the program during the five-year period preceding March 11, 2021; VA will verify through Department of Education.)
ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS
What are high demand occupations?
- The full list is available on our website (https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/vrrap.asp). It includes healthcare, education, media, engineering, and high-tech opportunities.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, tuition and fee payments are capped at a maximum amount per academic year for private and foreign schools, does it work the same way under VRRAP?
- Yes, tuition and fee payments under VRRAP are subject to the same academic year cap as private and foreign institutions of higher learning.

Can VRRAP benefits be paid for pursuit of an approved program at a foreign institution of higher learning?
- Yes, benefits can be paid for pursuit of an approved program at a foreign school, provided that the program leads to employment in a U.S. high demand occupation.

Can VRRAP benefits be paid for pursuit of an approved on-the-job or apprenticeship training program?
- No. Benefit payments under VRRAP (tuition & fees and the housing stipend) are determined under specific provisions of the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, which do not include those applicable to on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, non-degree flight training at a pilot school, or correspondence training.
General Q&A, cont.

- Can VRRAP benefits be paid for pursuit of an approved program at less than full time?
  - Yes, VRRAP benefits can be paid for pursuit of a program on a part time basis.

- Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, my school certifies tuition and fees on a semester basis, is it the same under VRRAP?
  - No. While term dates and credits will still be certified, the net tuition and fee charges for the entire program must also be certified. The total charges are required because payments to schools are based on percentages of the “total amount payable” for the program of education.

- If the student drops out and decides not to complete the program, does my school have to return the 50% of the net tuition and fee charges paid when the Veteran began the program?
  - A student’s withdrawal or failure to complete the program does not result in the creation of overpayment once the Veteran begins pursuing a covered program. However, the school is expected to follow its published and approved refund policies, and any tuition and fees that would be refunded should be sent back to VA.

- If a Veteran fails to complete the program but finds employment in a field related to the program within 180 days of withdrawal, can my school receive an additional payment for net tuition and fee charges?
  - Yes, VA will issue a prorated payment for the additional 25% of the net charges that would have been paid upon finding employment in a related field, based upon the portion of the program that was pursued.
QUESTIONS

Submit your Questions in the Q&A Pod

EDUVRRAP.VBAMUSK@va.gov