

Veterans Benefits Administration Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



VR&E Program Mission

- The mission of Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) is to help Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap prepare for, find, and maintain suitable careers
- For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E provides services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible





Key Services Provided

- VR&E employs nearly 1,000 professional vocational rehabilitation counselors and delivers services through a network of nearly 350 office locations
- Our service delivery model works to support Veterans where they are located, and includes operations at 56 regional offices, the National Capital Region Benefits Office, approximately 142 out-based offices, 71 Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) installations, and 93 VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) schools/sites
- VSOC
 - We currently collaborate with 93 schools across the country to provide educational and vocational counseling and other on-site services to an available population of nearly 78,000 student Veterans on campus
- IDES
 - We have expanded early intervention counseling and other available services for wounded, ill, injured and other transitioning Servicemembers at 71 military installations

Key Services Provided (con't)



- Help Veterans with service-related disabilities:
 - Achieve and maintain suitable employment
 - Gain independence in daily living
- Vocational counseling and planning
- Education or vocational training
- Monthly living allowance in addition to disability compensation
- Tools to accommodate program (e.g. auto mechanic tools, computers for technology/professional fields)
- Job-seeking skills and assistance in finding employment
- Independent living:
 - Training in activities of daily living
 - Personal adjustment counseling and support services



Chapter 31 Basic Benefit Information

- 48 months of training entitlement, plus employment services
 - May be utilized within 12 years from the date of initial VA disability rating notification
 - Exception for those with a serious employment handicap



Chapter 31 Eligibility and Entitlement



- **Active Duty Servicemembers:**
 - Expect to receive a honorable discharge upon separation from active duty
 - Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
 - Obtain a memorandum rating or proposed IDES rating of 20% or more from VA
 - Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from a service-connected disability
 - Sec. 1631(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181) established VR&E eligibility and automatic entitlement for severely injured active duty individuals before a VA rating is issued. Sunset date of NDAA was extended to Sep. 30, 2018





Chapter 31 Eligibility and Entitlement

- Veterans:
 - Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
 - VA service-connected disability rating of 10% or memo rating of 20% or more
 - Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
 - Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from a service-connected disability
 - Serious employment handicap needed to establish entitlement for Veterans rated 10%



Employment Tracks



- Re-Employment
 - For individuals wishing to return to work with a former employer and needing accommodations enabling them to do so
- Rapid Access to Employment
 - For individuals who are ready to enter the workforce with minimal assistance
- Employment through Long Term Services
 - For individuals requiring additional skills or training to find competitive, suitable employment





Other Programs of Services

- Chapter 35
 - Educational counseling for children/widows/spouses eligible for the Dependents Educational Assistance Program
 - For dependents of Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability, or those who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected disability
- Chapter 36
 - Personalized educational and career counseling for Servicemembers and Veterans, as well as support to help guide their career paths, ensure the most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals
 - Services are now available on campus at training facilities that are participating in the VSOC program
- Chapter 18
 - Vocational training and rehabilitation benefits for children with Spina Bifida born of certain Veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea



Educational and Career Counseling Program (Chapter 36)

- The VSOC program operates under the VA's education and career counseling program, or Chapter 36, authority
- Chapter 36 benefits offer a wide range of educational and vocational counseling services to Servicemembers, Veterans, and dependents who are eligible for one of the VA's educational benefit programs
 - 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
- Eligibility:
 - Transitioning Servicemembers within 6 months prior to discharge
 - Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty
 - Any Servicemember/Veteran currently eligible for a VA education benefit
 - All current VA education beneficiaries



VR&E Payments and Invoicing

To ensure consistency across VR&E Offices regarding invoicing requirements and payments, detailed guidance has been disseminated to our Finance divisions and VR&E field offices, including:

- **The Prompt Payment Rule (5 CFR 1315.4 (b)), which ensures that Federal agencies pay vendors in a timely manner**

Invoices at a minimum must include:

- Name of vendor, invoice date, invoice number, vendor point of contact (name, title, and telephone number), Veteran's name with clearly delineated costs, description of services (tuition, fees, supplies, etc.), date or time period services/goods were provided to Veteran



VR&E Payments and Invoicing

Recommendations

- Only include **one** Veteran per invoice
- Communication:
 - SCO's should request and maintain an updated Regional Office staffing list of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors or designated POCs
 - 28-1905, Authorization for Services
 - Ensure 28-1905 has VRC name and contact information
 - Please contact the local VR&E manager if unable to resolve with the VRC and/or designated POC
 - Please contact 202-461-9600 if payment issues remain unresolved-Identify school and reason for call to be directed to right individual.