



THE VOW TO HIRE HEROES ACT OF 2011

NEW BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS

VETERANS MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to Veterans who meet all the following criteria:

- Unemployed
- At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not eligible for any other VA education benefit programs (e.g., the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment)
- Not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability (IU)
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

Veterans can apply for VRAP beginning on May 15, 2012, for programs that begin on or after July 1, 2012. Participating Veterans may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month. Assistance under this benefit program ends on March 31, 2014.

Programs must meet the following criteria to qualify for VRAP benefits:

- Be offered by a community college or technical school
- Lead to an Associates Degree or Certificate
- Train the Veteran for a high demand occupation

UNEMPLOYED VETERANS WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

To qualify, Veterans must:

- Have previously completed a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program
- Apply within six months of exhausting initial claim for unemployment compensation
- Apply to VA by March 31, 2014

VA offers incentive payments to encourage employers to hire and train program participants.

- Veterans must apply and qualify for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits prior to being hired
- VA may reimburse up to one-half the Veterans annual salary for 6 months or longer
- Gives Veterans a competitive advantage with employers

**For more information on these great benefits and how to apply, please visit us online at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW or call toll free at 1-800-827-1000.

Please continue to check www.va.gov for changes and updates to the VOW to Hire Hero Act programs and benefits. Last updated on 05/11/2012



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