



## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

### CHAPTER 31

## What Is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program whose primary function is to help veterans with service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living.

The program offers a number of services to help each eligible disabled veteran reach his or her rehabilitation goal. These services include vocational and personal counseling, education and training, financial aid, job assistance, and, if needed, medical and dental treatment. Services generally last up to 48 months, but they can be extended in certain instances.

### Who Is Eligible?

Usually, you must first be awarded a monthly VA disability compensation payment. In some cases, you may be eligible if you aren't getting VA compensation. For example, if you are awaiting discharge from the service because of a disability you may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation.

***Eligibility is also based on you meeting the following conditions:***

- You served on or after September 16, 1940 **AND**
- Your service-connected disabilities (SCD) are rated at least 20% disabling by VA **AND**
- You need Vocational Rehabilitation to overcome an employment handicap **AND**
- It has been less than 12 years since VA notified you of your qualified SCD

***Note:***

- You may be entitled to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services if you are rated 10% disabled; however it must be determined that you have a serious employment handicap (SEH).
- Regardless of your SCD rating percentage, you may have longer than 12 years to use your VR benefit if certain conditions prevented you from participating in a VR program or it is determined that you have a SEH.

### How Much Does VA Pay?



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



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If you need training, VA will pay your training costs, such as tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment, and, if needed, special services. While you are in training, VA will also pay you a monthly benefit to help with living expenses, called a subsistence allowance. For details, call the toll-free number below.

### **How Can You Apply?**

You can apply by filling out VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation, and mail it to the VA regional office that serves your area. You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

### **Related Benefits**

5 Tracks to Employment

Work Study Allowance

Tutorial Assistance

Revolving Fund Loan

For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000 or Visit Our Web Site at <http://www.va.gov>

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