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# Readiness and Employment Veteran (VR&E, Voc Rehab or Chapter 31)





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## **The #1 question about Voc Rehab is... What is Veteran Readiness and Employment?**

A program designed to assist veterans/service members with service-connected disabilities to become suitably employed, maintain employment or achieve independence in daily living.





## Eligibility Criteria

### Veterans:

- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- A final VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or a memorandum rating of 10 percent
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services

### Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more; or obtain a proposed Integrated Disability Evaluation Service (IDES) rating



## What is an Employment Handicap?

- An impairment of the individual's ability to prepare for, obtain or retain employment consistent with his/her abilities, aptitudes, and interests. The impairment cannot or has not been overcome with sustainable suitable employment.
- Serious employment handicap needed to establish entitlement for Veterans rated 10%
- Serious Employment handicap would be a more significant impairment which can include:
  - Severity or number of disabling conditions
  - Unstable work history
  - Long periods of unemployment
  - Reliance on government support programs
  - History of substance abuse
  - Frequent hospitalizations
  - Chronic pain
  - Withdrawal from society
  - Criminal record
  - Financial difficulty





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## Basic Benefit Information

Comprehensive Vocational Assessment

Employment Assistance

Medical Services as needed

Independent Living Services



## The 5 Support-and-Services

- Reemployment Track
  - Assist in your return to your former job and support your employer in meeting your needs.
- Rapid Access to Employment Track
  - If you want to find a job or career that uses your existing skill set, the Rapid Access to Employment Track can help you with your job search.
- Self-Employment Track
  - If you're a service member or Veteran with a service-connected disability and employment barrier, the Self-Employment track can help you start your own business if you have a viable business plan, where-as your products will be purchased within six months to one year.
- Employment Through Long-Term Services Track
  - If you have a service-connected disability of 10% or more, and an employment barrier, they can help you get the education or training you need to find work in a different field that won't aggravate your service-connected disabilities.
- Independent Living Track
  - If you can't return to work right away, you may qualify for services that can help you live as independently as possible.

## Track Selection 1

### Re-employment Track

For individuals separating from active duty, National Guard, or Reserves

Services focused on returning to previous employers

Services may also include:

- Job Accommodations

- Job Modifications

- Work Adjustment Assistance

- Consultation With the Employer

- Personalized Case Management Support





## Track Selection 2

### Rapid Access to Employment

#### For individuals seeking employment:

Soon after separation

Who already have the necessary skills to be competitive in the job market

#### Services may also include:

Resume Writing

Interview Skills Training

Job Accommodations

Refresher Courses

Licensure and Certification

Job Search Assistance

Employment Adjustment Services

Personalized Case Management Services





## Track Selection 3

### Employment Through Long-Term Services

For individuals needing specialized training and/or education to obtain and maintain suitable employment

Services may include:

- Apprenticeships and Internships
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Higher Education or Vocational Training
- Tuition/Fees/Books/Tools/Supplies
- Tutoring
- Subsistence Allowance
- Personalized Case Management Support



## Track Selection 4

### Self-Employment

- For individuals who because of their disabilities:
  - Have limited access to traditional employment,
  - Need flexible work schedules, or
  - A more accommodating work environment
- Services may also include:
  - Analysis of the viability of the business concept
  - Assistance with the development of a business plan
  - Training in small business operations
  - Guidance on obtaining resources
  - Personalized Case Management Support





## Track Selection 5

### Independent Living

- For individuals who are not able to work at the current time and need rehabilitation services to live more independently
- Services may also include:
  - Comprehensive In-Home Assessment
  - Assistive Technologies
  - Independent Living Skills Training
  - Connection to Community-Based Support Services
  - Personalized Case Management Services
  - Coordination With VA's Specially Adapted Housing Program and/or VA's Home Improvement Structure Assistance Program
  - Personalized Case Management Support



## Veteran Readiness & Employment

- 48 Months
- 100% of Tuition
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) (if qualified) or VA Monthly Stipend
- 100% of Required Books
- Required Supplies
- Adaptive Equipment as Needed
- Required Equipment, Tools, and Software for Courses
- Tutors (if necessary)
- Counselor Assigned to Work with Veterans Throughout Process
- Employment Program Assistance While in School as well as After Completing Education/Training for Employment



## Basic Benefit Information

- Maximum of 48 Months of Entitlement
- May Utilize Within 12 Years from Date of Initial VA Disability Rating Notification
- Exception for Veterans With a Serious Employment Handicap



## How to Apply for VR&E

- If Still on Active Duty and Not In IDES, a Memorandum Rating Request (VA Form 28-0588) Must be Submitted
- If a Veteran or Currently in IDES, Submit VA Form 28-1900
- Apply Online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
- Email the Application to the closest office

The Closest Office Near Elizabeth City:

Department Of Veterans Affairs VR&E  
Federal Building  
251 North Main Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27155  
Office Tel. 336-714-6099

Other Locations Include Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville or Raleigh