United States Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service and Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program for Veterans Served by the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program

February 12, 2013

Webinar Hosted by the

NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS
Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

- One of the programs authorized by the VOW To Hire Heroes Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-56), enacted on November 21, 2011
- A collaborative partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL)
- Targets a specific category of Veterans
- Provides 12 months of training assistance to eligible Unemployed Veterans.
VRAP Program Overview

- The program will run from July 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014.
  - Applications will not be accepted after October 1, 2013.

- Approximately 99,000 Veterans will be served under the VRAP.
  - Up to 45,000 between July 1, 2012 thru Sept. 30, 2012.

- As of February 1, 2013, the VA reported the approving 78,876 of the 96,265 VRAP applications submitted since May 15, 2012.
Who is eligible for VRAP?

To be eligible for VRAP benefits, applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 35 and 60
- Be unemployed on the date of application
- Not be enrolled in any Federal or state funded job training during the previous 180 days
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Be ineligible for any other VA education program
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to individual unemployability
VRAP Approved Training

- Provides participants up to 12 months of training assistance which must:
  - Be in one of the 211 “high demand occupations” identified by DOL on VA’s website.
    - The list of 211 occupational categories may be found at: benefits.va.gov/vow/docs/VRAP_High_Demand.pdf
  - Be enrolled in a community college, vocational or technical school, full time.
  - Lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or Certificate.
How to Apply for VRAP Participation

- Online application, Veterans On-Line Application (VONAPP).
  www.benefits.va.gov/VOW

- No computer access?
  • Locate the nearest American Job Center at www.servicelocator.org

- On the day their application is submitted, VONAPP will ask applicants to attest to:
  • Being between 35 and 60 years of age;
  • Being unemployed at time of application;
  • Not having been in a Federally or State-funded job training program for the last 180 days.
What are needed for successful VRAP Application Submission?

Veterans need to provide the following to submit their VRAP application:

- Military Service Branch and Service Dates
- Educational Goal
- School choice and address (and dates they wish to attend); and,
- Bank Information:
  - routing number,
  - type of account; (i.e., checking or savings); and,
  - the account number.
What does VRAP Provide?

VRAP can provide approved participants a:

- Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
- Monthly stipend up to One Year
  - Currently $1,564 (effective October 1, 2012)
  - Through Direct Deposit
  - For every month of completed coursework
  - Certified by an approved training institution
- Professional Certification of Completion
  - Associate Degree; or
  - Professional Trade Certificate
  - Recognized State License
Job Centers’ Role in VRAP

- American Job Center Staff will:
  - Advise interested veterans in the VRAP
  - Assist them to understand VRAP eligibility
  - Assist them to determine LMI for those fields selected
  - Identify approved “high demand occupations”
    - “high demand” does not always indicate jobs are available in a given geographical location or time.

- For those veterans who complete the training or terminate early, Job Center Staff will:
  - Contact individuals within 30 days to offer assistance
  - Assist Veterans who do not find jobs on their own
Tracking VRAP Applicants

- Veterans found ‘not eligible’ for VRAP can:
  - File an appeal with the appropriate VETS’ State Director
  - Seek job/training assistance through the American Job Center system
- VRAP Applicant information will be provided securely to State Agencies for AJC follow-up
- Services and outcomes for all VRAP applicants and participants will be tracked and reported.
  - ETA will soon issue revised guidance to States
  - Procedures will follow via soon to be released TEGL.
- HVRP sites should track VRAP participants/outcomes
HVRP VRAP Successes

- **Goodwill Industries of Houston (Houston, TX)**
  - Charles Brown, Manager of Veterans Services

- **Salvation Army Haven (Los Angeles, CA)**
  - Lisa Anderson, Program Manager

- **Albany Housing Coalition (Albany, NY)**
  - Michael Fitzpatrick, Veterans Employment Specialist
Discussion.

Questions for Presenters?
Contact Information

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    - NCHV: http://www.nchv.org/
  - Additional VRAP information can be found at:
    - www.dol.gov/vets
    - www.doleta.gov
    - http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW
    - http://benefits.va.gov/vow/resources.htm
    - http://jobcenter.usa.gov/