

The VR&E Registered Apprenticeship Training Project and Pilot

February 2021



Topics

- Introduction – Panel Members
- We can work together!
 - Increase VR&E apprenticeship enrollments and help HVRP participants
 - Connect HVRP apprenticeships to local VR&E offices
- Joint Work Group – VA VR&E and DOL VETS
- The VR&E Registered Apprenticeship Training Pilot
 - Training Modules
 - Improvements to Apprenticeship.gov
 - Pilot Evaluation
 - American Job Centers (AJC), VR&E and You

Why Apprenticeships?

\$70,000

The average annual starting **wage** for someone who has completed a **Registered Apprenticeship Program** is about **\$70,000**.

94%

The **employment retention rate** of apprentices who complete their apprenticeship is **94%**.

The Benefits of RA

Benefit to the Veteran

- A paycheck during training and access to higher wages at conclusion of training
- Practical, on-the-job training in a wide variety of occupations
- Potential to earn college credits
- Mentorship
- Clear cut guidelines and training standards that resemble military training
- An industry-recognized, nationally portable credential

Benefit to VR&E

- Successful placement in high wage employment
- Higher employment retention rates
- Higher levels of program satisfaction
- Lower program recidivism rates
- Suitability of position that doesn't negatively impact Vets health and wellbeing

VA Education Benefits for Registered Apprenticeship Program

	Ch. 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill	<u>Ch. 31 VR&E</u>
Eligibility	90 days active aggregate service or 30 days continuous if discharged for disability	Must be found entitled to VR&E in order to use.
Months of Benefits	36	48
How Payments are Made	Tuition (if applicable): Paid to school Housing stipend: Paid monthly to Veteran Books & Supplies: Paid to Veteran at the beginning of the term	Paid directly to facility, including textbooks & supplies
Stipend/ Allowance	BAH at E-5 with dependent rate	Subsistence allowance; although BAH substitution is possible

Apprenticeships and HVRP

- Veterans enrolled in the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) can work with DVOP Specialists to identify their potential eligibility for Chapter 31 (VR&E) benefits and be referred to a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for further consideration.
- Even veterans who do not qualify for Chapter 31 benefits may find apprenticeships to be a great fit.
- HVRP Apprenticeships can work with VR&E local office.

Build Partnerships & Make Connections

What's your connection?

What's your involvement?

We can work together!



VR&E & VETS Joint Workgroup

Joint Workgroup

A 25-year partnership that enhances coordination, collaboration, and resource sharing that draw on the strengths and expertise of the two agencies.

The VR&E Registered Apprenticeship Training Project

In 2020, the two agencies collaborated to increase the number of VR&E participants who enroll in apprenticeships.

VR&E Apprenticeship Pilot Goals



- **Increase Chapter 31 Veterans to Registered Apprenticeship (RA) opportunities**
 - **Pilot training**
 - **Evaluate**
 - **Roll out nationwide**

What we did.

- We held pilot training virtually with live trainers over an interactive webinar platform to allow for feedback and questions.
- Utilizing feedback from participants, a final version of the live trainings is being recorded.
- Created companion desk reference to support VR&E staff with apprenticeship activities.

The training

- The trainings were piloted in the fall of 2020 at several VR&E Regional Offices and focused on:
 - Think Apprenticeship -- Introduction to Apprenticeship
 - Connecting to Registered Apprenticeship
 - Registered Apprenticeship for VR&E

Interim Findings and Results

- **Staff reported:**

- Increased awareness about apprenticeship.
- Talking about apprenticeships more.
- Incorporating apprenticeship into their weekly orientation with *potential* VRE participants.
- Desire to Reach out to RA programs.

- **Results:**

- Training participants increased their knowledge about apprenticeship significantly.
- Based on data through December 2020—
 - As a result of the training, VRE staff reported talking more about apprenticeship with their VRE co-workers (e.g. planning for RA program outreach) and with RA programs.
 - Veterans are engaging with apprenticeships in a variety of ways .

Project – Looking Towards the Future

- Best Practices and Next Steps:
 - Continuous training and support to VR&E and JVSG staff to operationalize apprenticeships.
 - Continue to streamline apprenticeship activities between Federal partners.
 - Development of future apprenticeship training or activities through the Joint Workgroup.

American Job Centers (AJC), VR&E and You

Connecting with VR&E and AJC's Registered Apprenticeship structure to leverage outcomes for HVRP participants.

Finding Registered Apprenticeship programs and partners.

Matching Veterans to Registered Apprenticeship programs.