

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011.

Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) that offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) rolled out this new program on July 1, 2012.



[VRAP](#) offers 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

The Department of Labor defines “unemployed” as “People who are jobless, looking for jobs, and available for work.” All three criteria must be met to be considered unemployed.

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Are unemployed
- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Are **not eligible for any other** VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012, and 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). The Department of Labor will offer employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program.

Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation.

High Demand Jobs

VRAP will provide training for programs of education that lead to a high demand occupation, as determined by the Department of Labor. Download the list of [High Demand Occupations \(VRAP\)](#).

How to Apply

The Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs began accepting applications on May 15, 2012. To complete the application, you will need to know your direct deposit information (bank routing number and account number), the name and location of your school, the program you wish to pursue, and the applicable high demand occupation.

Find out more about [VRAP](#) today!