THE VOW TO HIRE HEROES ACT OF 2011

NEW BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS

VETERANS MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION BENEFITS.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers 12 months of retraining assistance to Veterans who are:

- Unemployed
- At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g., the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment)
- Not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability (IU)
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program
- Enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school

The program is limited to **45,000 participants** from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, and to **54,000 participants** from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill–Active Duty program (currently **$1,473 per month**). The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certification, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation.

Visit www.gibill.va.gov/VRAP to learn more and read frequently asked questions about VRAP. More details about VRAP, including information on how to apply, will be published at www.gibill.va.gov as they become available.

VETERANS WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Veterans who previously completed a VA vocational rehabilitation program and have used the initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits may qualify for an additional 12 months of VA vocational rehabilitation benefits.

- You must have previously completed a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program and been considered "rehabilitated" by VA.
- You must apply within six months of using up your initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. You may still qualify for extended or emergency unemployment benefits.
- You can apply now, but cannot start any education or training until June 1, 2012 and you must apply to VA by March 31, 2014.

VA may offer incentive payments to encourage employers to hire and train program participants.

- VA may be able to reimburse an employer up to one-half your annual salary for 6 months or longer
- This can provide you with a competitive advantage with employers
- You must apply and qualify for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits prior to being hired

To apply or learn more information about vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits please call 1-800-827-1000, visit the www.va.gov and fill out an online application (VONAPP), or Complete VA Form 28-1900, *Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation,* and submit it to the nearest VA Regional Office.

Please continue to check www.va.gov for changes and updates to the VOW to Hire Hero Act programs and benefits. Last updated on 03/08/2012.

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs