



# Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E): An Overview

*US Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, VR&E  
2019*



Choose **VA**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# VBA Under Secretary for Benefits' Three Priorities



*Provide Veterans with the benefits they have earned in a manner that honors their service*



*Ensure we are strong fiscal stewards of the money entrusted to us*



*Foster a culture of collaboration*



Choose **VA**

**VA**



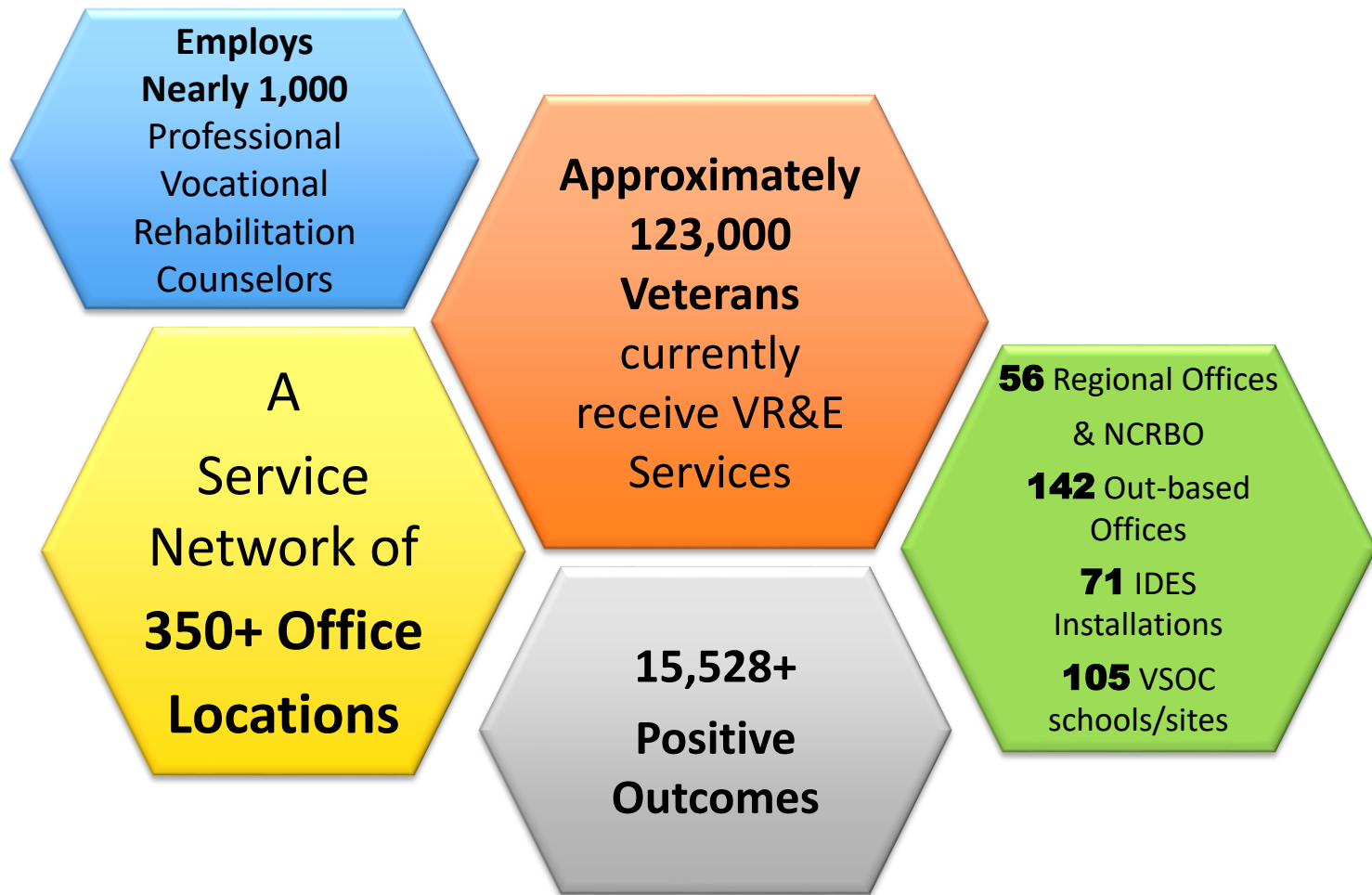
U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Mission

- The mission of Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) is to help Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap prepare for, obtain and maintain suitable employment
- For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E provides services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible



# VR&E Facts



# VR&E Service Delivery Model

## Three Key Features



### Multi-Year Cycle

The cycle of an active VR&E case may extend up to and beyond six years. This is necessary to provide adequate training for Veterans so that they can obtain employment that accommodates their disabilities and provides an appropriate career foundation.



### Face-to-face Interactions

VR&E requires regular face-to-face interactions with Veterans to deliver benefits and services, in contrast to VBA's other lines of business that focus primarily on claims processing.



### Largest Out-Based Network within VBA

VR&E has the largest out-based network of any business line with nearly 350 locations nationwide.



# Key Services Provided

- Help Veterans with service-related disabilities:
  - Achieve and maintain suitable employment
  - Gain independence in daily living
- Vocational counseling and planning
- Educational or vocational training
- Monthly living allowance in addition to disability compensation
- Tools to accommodate program (e.g. auto mechanic tools, computers for technology/professional fields)
- Job-seeking skills and assistance in finding employment
- Independent living:
  - Training in activities of daily living
  - Personal adjustment counseling and support services



# Chapter 31 Eligibility and Entitlement

- Active Duty Servicemembers:
  - Expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty
  - Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
  - Obtain a memorandum rating of 20% or more from VA
    - Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from a service-connected disability

**OR**

- Receive automatic entitlement for severely injured active duty individuals before a VA rating is issued per the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181).



Choose **VA**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Chapter 31 Eligibility and Entitlement

- Veterans:
  - Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
  - VA service-connected disability rating of 10% or more
  - Memorandum rating of 20% or more from VA
  - Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
  - Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap or barrier resulting from a service-connected disability
  - Serious employment handicap needed to establish entitlement for Veterans rated 10%





# Chapter 31 Basic Benefit Information

- 48 months of entitlement, to include employment services
  - May be utilized within 12 years from the date of initial VA disability rating notification
  - Exception for those with a serious employment handicap



# Chapter 31 Process

■ Application    
 ■ Entitlement Decision    
 ■ Evaluation and Planning    
 ■ Tracks    
 ■ Employment Services    
 ■ Rehabilitated

- VAF 28-1900 via online [www.ebenefits.gov/vocrehab](http://www.ebenefits.gov/vocrehab)
- Veteran's eligibility established
- Schedule Veteran for initial counseling appointment if eligible

- Work with Veteran to identify track
- Establish vocational or independent living goal
- Define services needed
- Develop written plan of services

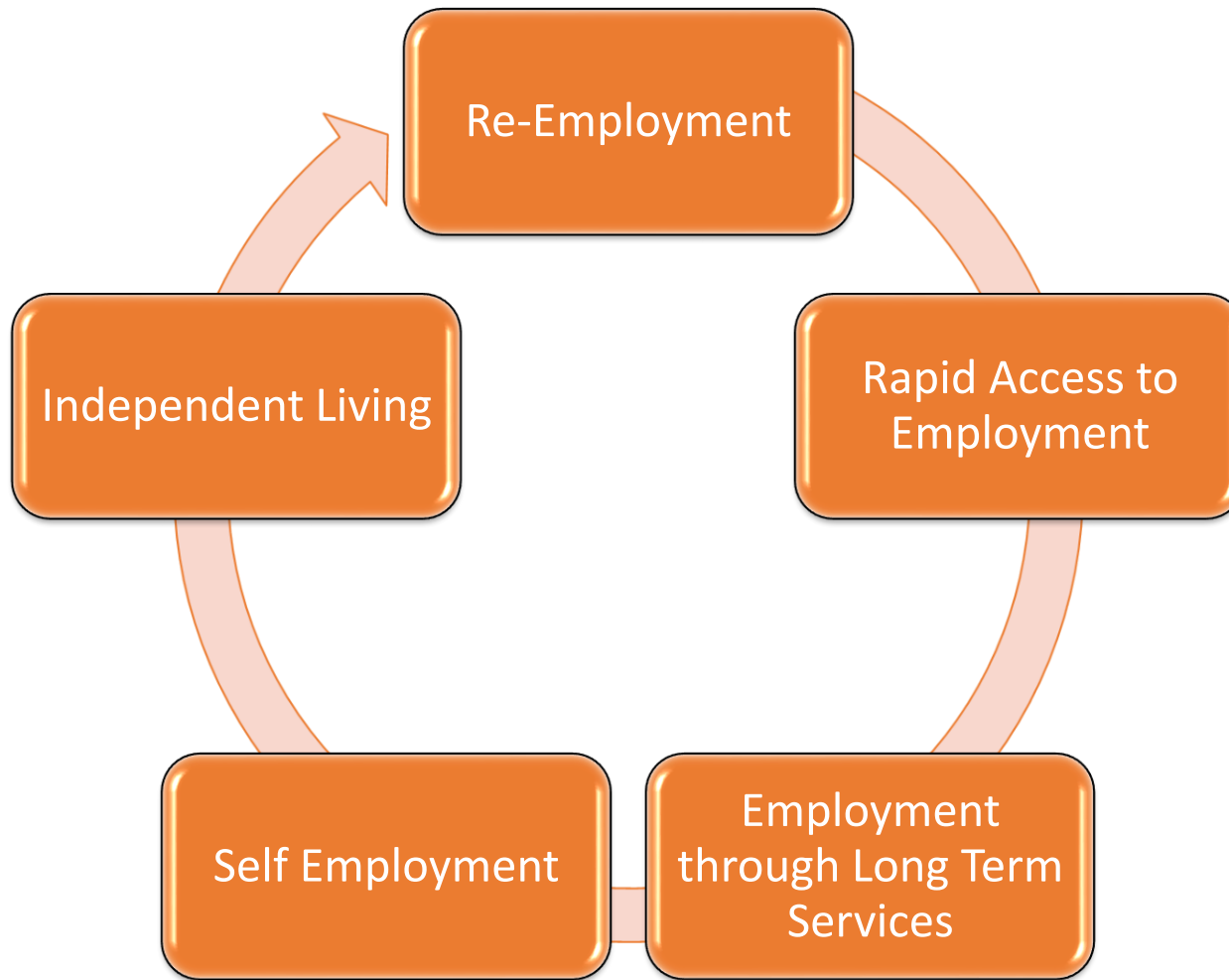
- On-going case management (max of 18 months)
- Provide employment services
  - Vetsuccess.gov
  - Interview skills
  - Job placement assistance
  - Referral to DOL

- VRC meets with Veteran
- Conduct VR&E orientation to include Five Tracks Video
- Conduct vocational evaluation to assess skills, abilities & interests
- Determine employment handicap (VR&E entitlement criteria) and serious employment handicap
- Determine feasibility for employment

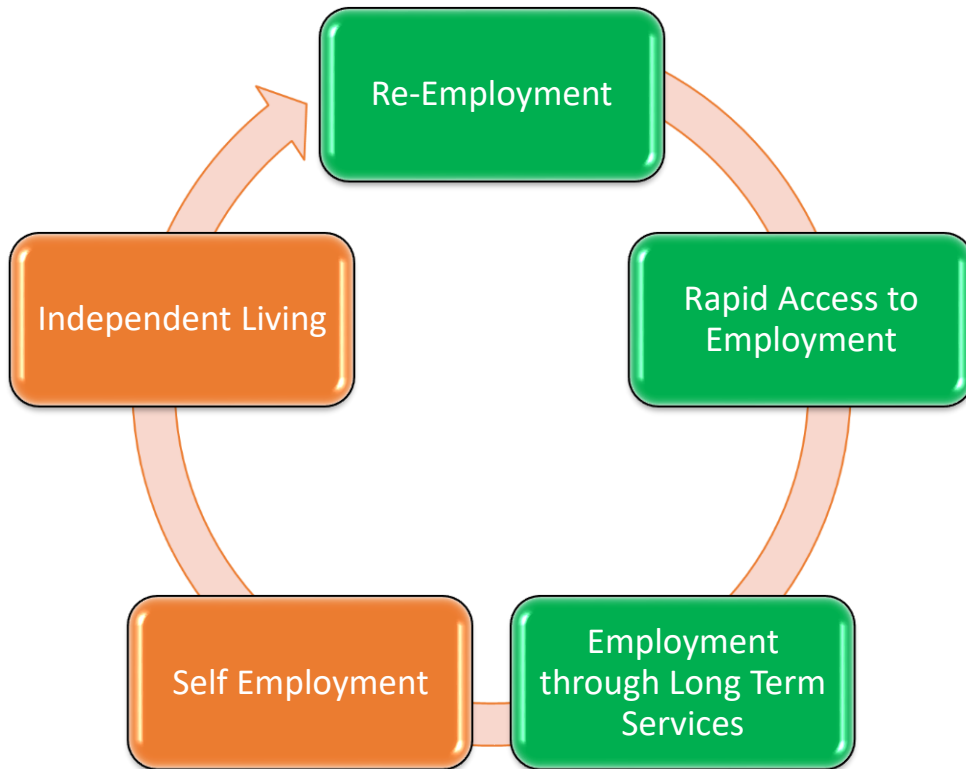
- Re-Employment
- Rapid Access To Employment
- Self Employment (monitor 1 yr. min)
- Employment Thru Long-Term Services
- Independent Living (24 mo. max with 6 mo. Ext by VR&EO)

- Held suitable employment or improved ability to live independently

# Chapter 31 Rehabilitation Tracks



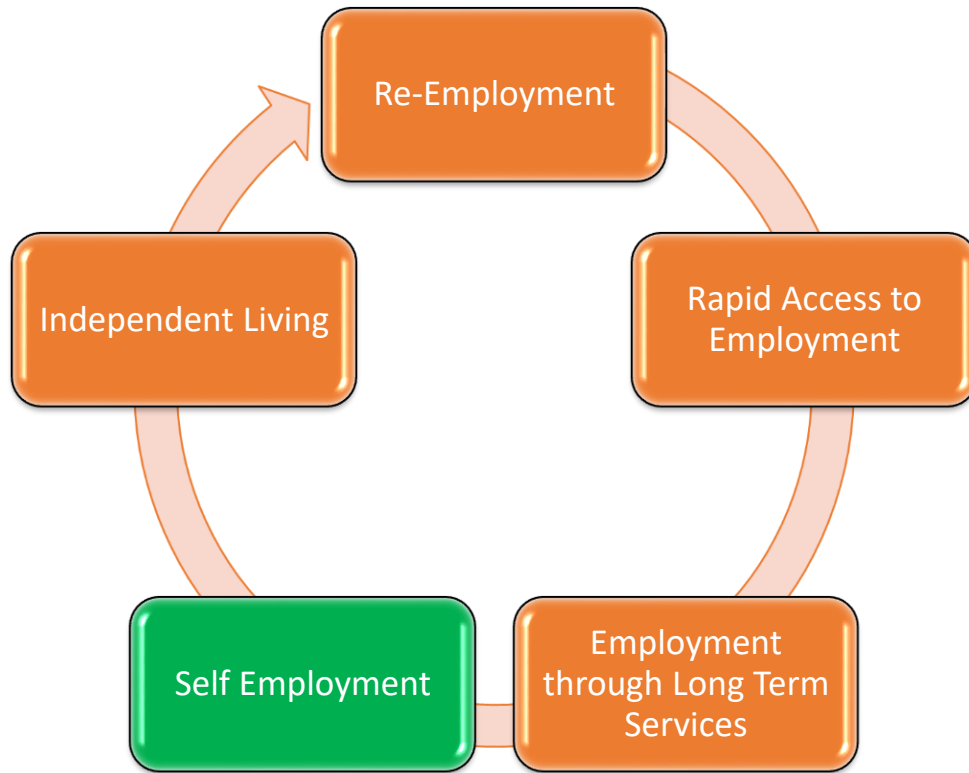
# Employment Tracks



- Re-Employment
  - For individuals wishing to return to work with a former employer and needing accommodations enabling them to do so
- Rapid Access to Employment
  - For individuals who are ready to enter the workforce with minimal assistance
- Employment through Long Term Services
  - For individuals requiring additional skills or training to find competitive, suitable employment



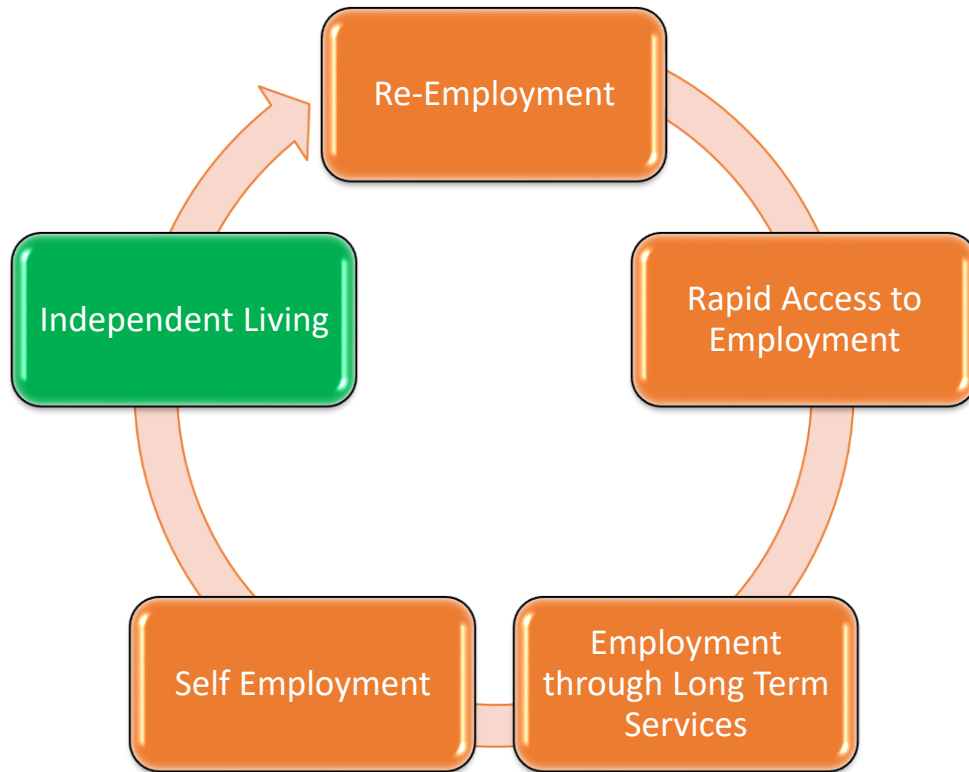
# Self-Employment Track



- For individuals who are interested in opening their own business
- For individuals with limited access to traditional employment, or who need flexible work schedules or a more accommodating work environment due to their disabilities. Services may include:
  - Analysis of viability of business concept
  - Development of a business plan
  - Training in small business operations
  - Marketing assistance
  - Guidance on obtaining resources



# Independent Living Track



- For individuals not able to work who need rehabilitation services to live more independently
- Services include:
  - Comprehensive in-home assessment
  - Assistive technologies
  - Independent living skills training
  - Connection to community-based support services
  - Case management services
  - Coordination with VA's specially adapted housing program, when eligible

# Other Programs of Services

## Chapter 18

- Vocational training and rehabilitation services for children with spina bifida born of certain Veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea

## Chapter 35

- Educational counseling for children, widows and/or spouses of permanent and total service-connected Veterans with disabilities

## Chapter 36

- Educational and career counseling for Veterans and Servicemembers at training facilities
- VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Program



# Other Programs of Services

## Chapter 18

- Vocational training and rehabilitation services for children with spina bifida born of certain Veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea

## Chapter 35

- Educational counseling for children, widows and/or spouses of permanent and total service-connected Veterans with disabilities

## Chapter 36

- Educational and career counseling for Veterans and Servicemembers at training facilities





# Other Programs of Services

## Chapter 18

- Vocational training and rehabilitation services for children with spina bifida born of certain Veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea

## Chapter 35

- Educational counseling for children, widows and/or spouses of permanent and total service-connected Veterans with disabilities

## Chapter 36

- Educational and career counseling for Veterans and Servicemembers at training facilities



# Chapter 36 Eligibility and Services

## Eligibility

- Transitioning Servicemembers within 6 months prior to discharge
- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty
- Any Servicemember/Veteran currently eligible for a VA education benefit
- All current VA education beneficiaries

## Services

- Career Choice
- Educational Counseling
- Benefits Coaching
- Personalized Support



# VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)

## Mission

- To provide student Veterans seamless access to VA services; support their successful integration into college and university campuses; support their individualized educational goals, so they may persist, graduate, and improve their life circumstances; and successfully live and thrive in the career field and community of their choice
- VR&E has approximately 87 professionally trained VSOC counselors on 104 campuses who can provide Chapter 36 services



Choose **VA**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Additional Information and Resources

- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Information
  - [Informational Overview Documents](#)
  - [VetSuccess on Campus \(VSOC\) Program Description & Directory](#)
  - [Chapter 36: Education and Career Counseling](#)
  - [Find a local VA VR&E Employment Coordinator](#)
  - [Principles of Excellence](#)
- VR&E YouTube Videos
  - [VR&E Benefit Overview](#)
  - [VR&E Career Day: My Dad, My Hero](#)
  - [VR&E Rolling Up My Sleeves](#)
  - [VR&E VetSuccess on Campus: John Luque](#)
  - [VetSuccess on Campus \(VSOC\) Program](#)
  - [VetSuccess on Campus: Mentoring Veterans](#)



# Questions



Choose **VA**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs