



# Self-Management Strategies for VetSuccess - Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment - Participants

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## Overview of VR&E

*“The VR&E program enables our injured soldiers, sailors, airmen, and other Veterans with disabilities to make a seamless transition from military service to a successful rehabilitation and on to suitable careers after service to our nation.”*

- VA’s VetSuccess Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) team assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities in preparing for, finding, and keeping suitable careers
- 102,000 Veterans currently participate in the VR&E program
- A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) works with each Veteran to design an individualized rehabilitation plan that meets the Veteran’s unique needs
- Five “tracks” of services...



## VR&E Tracks of Services

- Reemployment with previous employer
  - Work adjustment services, job accommodations, short-term training, licensure/certifications
- Direct job-placement services for new employment
  - Short-term training, job-readiness preparation, resume development, interview skills, job search assistance
- Self-employment
  - Development of a business plan, marketing and financial assistance, guidance, training
- Employment through long-term services
  - On-the-job training, apprenticeships, post-secondary education, job readiness and job search assistance and employment monitoring
- Independent living services
  - Independent living skills training, assistive technology, services at special rehabilitation facilities



## Challenges Veterans Face

- Many Veterans deal with medical conditions or disabilities that have a significant impact on their ability to take advantage of education and employment benefits that they have earned.
  - e.g., TBI, PTSD, vision/hearing impairment, loss of limbs, mental illness
- These challenges can make it difficult for Veterans to successfully carry out their rehabilitation plans and meet their employment goals



## Challenges Faced by VA

- Managing across VA enterprise for Veterans participating in VR&E and receiving care from VA clinicians
- Ratio of counselors to Veterans
- Increase in opportunities for Veterans to regain control of their lives and enter the economy in a meaningful way



## Self-Management Strategies

- Strategies ranging from simple, interactive applications to more comprehensive strategies can assist Veterans on a daily basis in carrying out their rehabilitation plans
- Self-management tools provide a means of empowering Veterans to fully realize their rehabilitation potentials
- Solutions might involve:
  - Assistive technology
  - Web-based tools
  - Self-monitoring strategies
  - Tools to effectively engage employers
  - Mobile applications
  - Mentoring networks – either face-to-face or online
  - Tools for counselors to assist Veterans with self-efficacy
  - Employment strategies
  - Integration with MyHealtheVet or Blue Button

*“VA seeks innovative self-management applications and tools to assist VR&E in empowering Veterans to take more control over their ability to achieve their full potential.”*



## Questions and Answers

- All questions with their answers from this webinar will be posted on both FedBizOpps ([www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)) and the VAI2 website ([www.va.gov/vai2](http://www.va.gov/vai2))

