



Putting Veterans First

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E) SERVICE

Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials (AVECO) Conference
June 2017

Veterans Benefits Administration

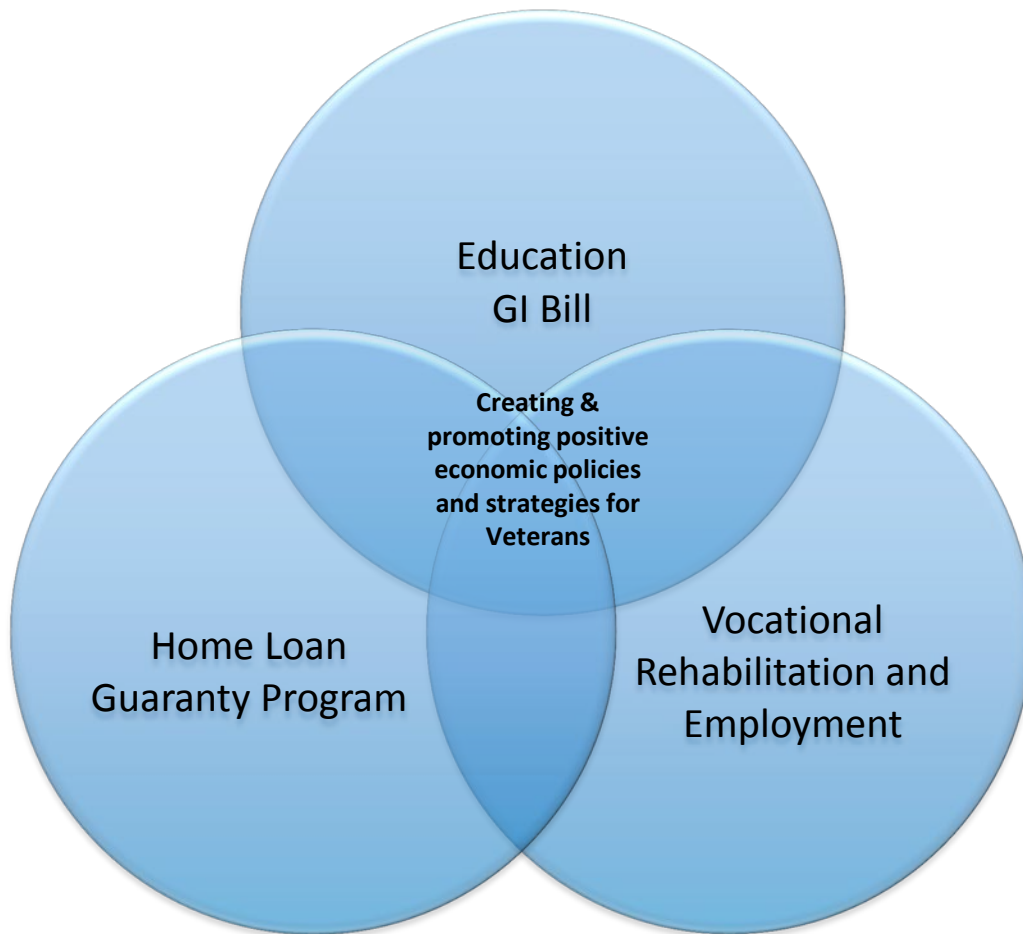
VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Office of Economic Opportunity

Helping Veterans and Servicemembers Attain Economic Mobility



- ✓ Promoting employment opportunities for Veterans
- ✓ Enhancing opportunities for Veterans to obtain knowledge and skills
- ✓ Providing opportunities for Veterans to obtain, retain and adapt a home



VR&E Mission Statement

The Mission of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) is to help Veterans with service connected disabilities and an employment handicap prepare for, find, 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

Reminder: VR&E is an Employment Program



Key Services Provided

- Assist Veterans with service-connected disabilities:
 - Achieve and maintain suitable employment
 - Gain independence in daily living
- Vocational counseling and planning
- Education or vocational training
- Monthly subsistence allowance in addition to disability compensation
- Tools and supplies necessary to achieve program goals (e.g. auto mechanic tools, computers for technology/professional fields)
- Job-seeking skills and assistance in finding employment (*not education*)
- Independent living:
 - Training in activities of daily living
 - Personal adjustment counseling and support services



VR&E – A National Program

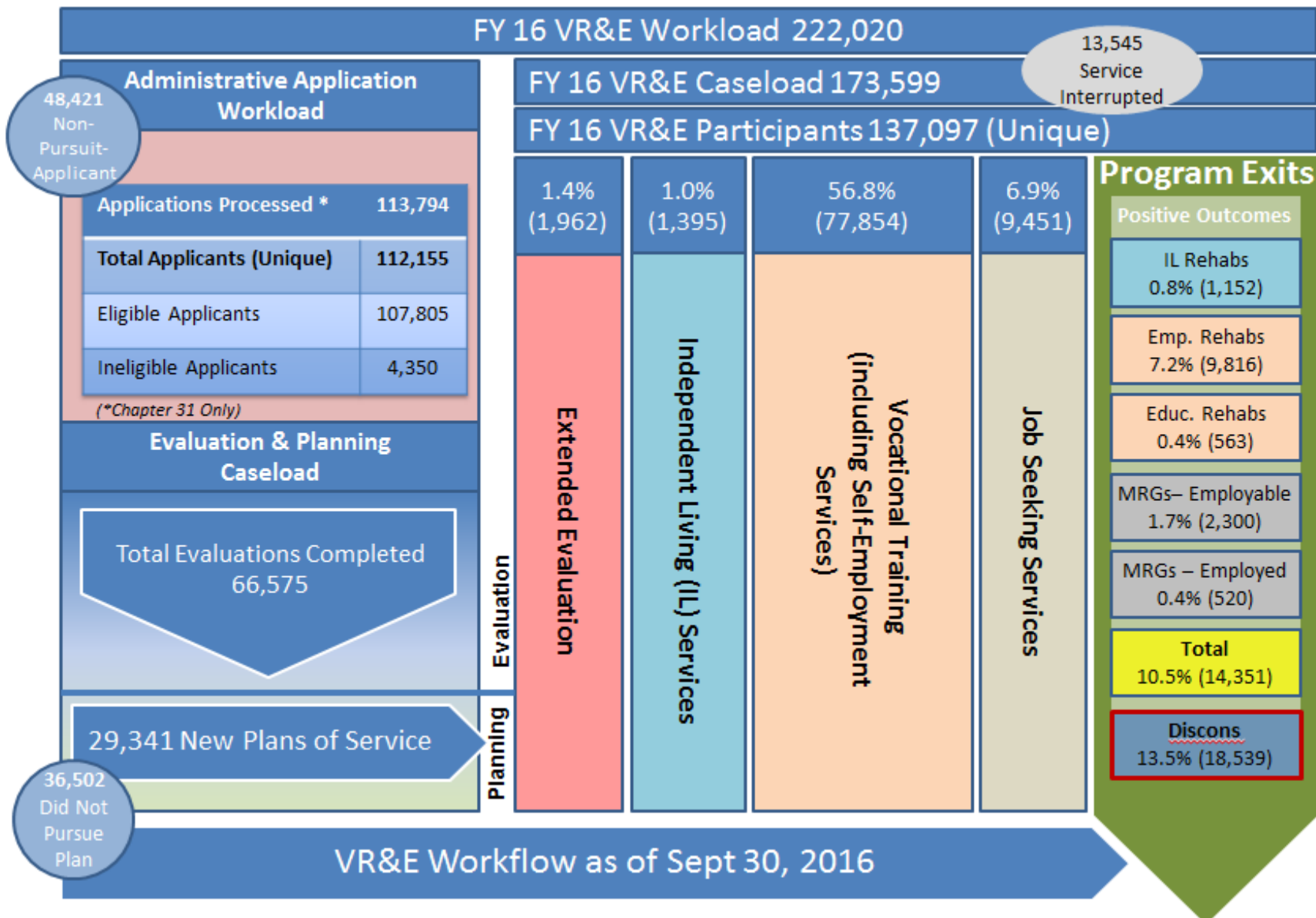
Nearly 1,000 Master's degree professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors delivering individual case management for wounded warriors and disabled Veterans out of 56 regional offices with a network of nearly 350 office locations

- **Current program participants o/a 135K and growing**
 - As more disability compensation claims are processed, VR&E workload increases (one of every 40 disability claims processed results in a new VR&E participant)
 - Determining eligibility is also workload ... 112K Veterans applied for Chapter 31 Services last year

- **VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)**
 - Collaborated with 94 schools across the country to provide educational and vocational counseling and other on-site services to nearly 78,000 student Veterans on campus

- **Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)**
 - Expanded early intervention counseling and other available services for transitioning wounded, ill, and injured Servicemembers at 71 military installations

VR&E Workload: By Phase or Status – FY16





On-Campus Assistance through VSOC



VSOC counselors provide:

- Adjustment counseling to resolve problems interfering with completion of education programs and entrance into employment
- Vocational testing
- Educational and career counseling (Chapter 36)
- Referrals to campus and community resources
- Support and assistance to all Veterans with VA benefits regardless of entitlement, benefit usage, or enrollment status



Educational and Career Counseling Program (Chapter 36)

- VA's education and career counseling program, or Chapter 36 benefits offer a wide range of educational and vocational counseling services to Servicemembers, Veterans, and dependents who are eligible for one of the VA's educational benefit programs.
- 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

It's simple to apply. Veterans just need to log in to their eBenefits account at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>, or open and print [VA Form 28-8832](#) with the instruction to submit.



Conclusion and Way Ahead

- Expect VR&E Applications--Participants will Continue to Grow
- Workload/ Caseload (CH31, VSOC, IDES, IL, Other)
- Consistency of VR&E Service Delivery
- Continue explore expansion possibilities with the VSOC Program while balancing Chapter 31 workload/caseload
 - 176 on Waiting List
 - Criteria and existing site available on VA website
 - Contact by phone at 202-461-9600 or VREOUTREACH.VBACO@va.gov to request information, get status on list.
- Utilizations of National Service Contract Management



Conclusion and Way Ahead (Cont.)

- School Certifying Official Handbook to include a section on the VR&E Chapter 31 Program – ETD Fall 2017
- We will Continue to Aggressively Transform VR&E beyond the Digital/Paperless Transition, leveraging ‘Disruptive Innovation’ to best meet the needs of Veterans and our Counselors
 - VR&E Electronic Invoicing – A digital shared platform is in progress with ETD in FY19.



Additional Information and Resources

- **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Information**
 - **Informational overview documents (PDF)**
http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/links_resources.asp
 - **VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>
 - **Chapter 36 Educational/Vocational Counseling Application: VA Form 28-8832:**
<https://www.vets.gov/education/tools-programs/education-career-counseling/>
- **VR&E YouTube Videos**
 - **VR&E's 5 Tracks to Employment:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWjc8aYPqqg&feature=youtu.be>
 - **VR&E Career Day: My Dad, My Hero:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASPqtJWJ-KU>
 - **VR&E Rolling Up My Sleeves:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykc6Q3PHfDw>
 - **VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWLCIB5TX_k &
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bSkspOd_uo
 - **VetSuccess on Campus: Mr. Curtis L. Coy, VA Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Opportunity:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdoqPObM8dg>



Q&A



Thanks! For all you do for the VR&E Team, and Veterans.