



Greeting Veterans,

The following information is an overview for the: **(VRAP)**
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)

The (VRAP) –Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, which offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify, a veteran must:

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

PARTICIPANTS LIMITS AND PAYMENTS

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 equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently **\$1,473 per month**). DOL will provide employment assistance to every veteran who participates upon completion of the program. VA will begin accepting application online **May 15, 2012. Program cannot start before July 1, 2012.**

Website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow> for additional information.

VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM –(VRAP)

HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

Visit http://gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/VOW_FAQ.pdf to read frequently asked questions about VRAP. Call 1-800-827-1000 to learn more information about the VOW to Hire Heroes act of 2011, or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow>

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for VA benefits that is 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. Go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow> to search for an approved program.

FREQUENTLY asked questions about the (VARP) *{just a few}*

Visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow> for all FAQ's

1. Question: Who can use the VRAP?

Answer: To use the program a veteran must:

- Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Be unemployed (as determined by Department of Labor (DoL))
- Have other than dishonorable discharge
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (*e.g., the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance*)
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to un-employability
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

2. Question: How much does the VRAP pay?

Answer: You may receive up to 12 months of payments at the full-time Montgomery GI-Bill – Active Duty rate (currently \$1,473 per month).

VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM –(VRAP)

3. Question: Will the payments under this program be sent directly to the school like payments under the Post- 9/11 GI Bill?

Answer: NO. The benefit will be paid directly to you and you are responsible for paying your expenses including tuition, fees, and books.

4. Question: What will happen when I finish my program?

Answer: The DoL will provide employment assistance to every veteran who participates, upon completion of his/her program.

If you have any questions, please contact Anitra King, career & veteran specialist 847-214-7531 or email: aking@elgin.edu.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anitra C. King, Career & Veteran Specialist

