

**Information regarding
Public Law 112-56
VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011:**

On November 21, 2011, President Obama signed Public Law 112-56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program for unemployed Veterans. VA and the Department of Labor (DoL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012.

A brief summary of this new law is outlined below:

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. To qualify, a Veteran must:

- Be between the age of 35 and 60
- Be unemployed (as determined by DoL) with special consideration given to Veterans who have been unemployed for more than 26 weeks
- Have an 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 unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

The program is limited to 99,000 participants who may receive up to 12 months of payments at the full-time Montgomery GI Bill–Active Duty rate (currently \$1,473 per month).

Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a Community College or Technical School. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certification, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation.

Applications will be submitted through DoL and benefits paid by VA. DoL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates, upon completion of their program

We've attached some frequently asked questions regarding the program. We will issue updates as additional information is received.

/s/

KEITH M. WILSON
Director,
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Frequently Asked Questions

1) Question: Who can use the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program?

Answer: To use the program a Veteran must:

- Be between the ages of 35 and 60
- Be unemployed (as determined by Department of Labor (DoL))
- Have an 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 unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

2) Question: What can I use the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program for?

Answer: Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a Community College or Technical School. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certification and train you in a high demand occupation as determined by DoL.

3) Question: How much does the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program 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).

4) 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.

5) Question: When, where, and how can I apply?

Answer: The program begins July 1, 2012. Watch the GI Bill website (www.gibill.va.gov) and follow our GI Bill Facebook page (www.facebook.com/gibillEducation) for more details on when, where, and how to apply.

6) Question: What will happen when I finish my program?

Answer: The DoL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates, upon completion of their program.

7) Question: What do I do if I need a job now?

Answer: There are extensive employment resources available for Veterans provided by the Federal Government. Visit www.fedshirevets.gov and the Department of Labor's www.dol.gov/vets to learn more.