



OCTOBER 2016

Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits for Veterans Includes New Programs

Jobs are on everybody's minds these days. When you are a veteran dealing with service-connected disabilities, there are challenges and opportunities to finding a job. One such opportunity is the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, which assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find and keep suitable jobs. You may hear it referred to as the Chapter 31 program, and it was authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, Vocational Rehabilitation offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Services offered include:

- Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills and interests for employment
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services
- Employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development and other work-readiness assistance,



- Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations
- On the job training, apprenticeships and non-paid work experiences
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling and medical referrals
- Independent living services for veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities

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SAN MATEO COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

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Active-duty service members are eligible for the program if they expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty, obtain a memorandum rating of 20 percent or more from the Veterans Administration and apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services. Veterans are eligible if they have received, or will receive a discharge that is other than dishonorable and have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10 percent and apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services.

The basic period of eligibility in which services may be used is 12 years from the date of separation from active military service, or the date the veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating. The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a vocational rehabilitation counselor determines that a veteran has a serious employment handicap. Veterans may apply for this benefit at our offices. A brand new benefit to help certain veterans who are not in other programs get training and find employment is The Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 that was passed by Congress to provide assistance for unemployed veterans. If you are an unemployed veteran between the ages of 35 and 60 you might qualify.



Look For Us At:

October 1st - Family Fun and Resource EXPO at Department of Housing in Belmont

October 8th & 9th - 1st Annual Student Veteran Leadership Conference at College of San Mateo

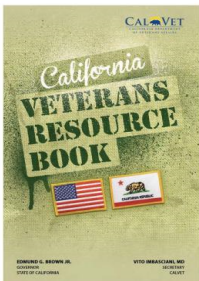
October 15th - Peninsula Vet Center Bike Show

October 17th - Women Veterans Health Fair at the San Bruno VA

October 22nd - Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace

November 10th - 1st Annual Veteran of the Year awards luncheon.

Every Tuesday at the Menlo Park VA, Bldg. #348



Get the Book!

<http://hsa.smcgov.org/veterans>

The San Mateo County Veterans Services Office (CVSO) can help you and your family submit claims for benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs and provide follow up services to ensure that you receive the benefits to which you are entitled. All our services are free and confidential. Contact us today at (650) 802-6598 or visit us at 400 Harbor Blvd., Building B, in Belmont.

