

# Appendix 8

## Federally-Funded Employment Programs for Veterans

### Introduction

Published data and reports from the General Accounting Office (GAO) and Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provide detailed information on vocational rehabilitation and employment programs. This appendix outlines federally-funded training and employment services, including those programs specifically designated for veterans.

GAO Report, GAO-03-589, "Multiple Employment and Training Programs – Funding Performance Measures for Major Programs," April 2003, details the estimated number of program participants who received employment and training services by federal programs. Forty-two of the 44 programs in the current review served more than 30 million participants (page 13). The Department of Labor's Employment Service provided assistance to an estimated 19 million participants in FY 2002. Of the 42 programs:

- Seven programs – which are not named as "veterans" programs – serve the most number of individuals, approximately 27 million participants.
- Thirty-five smaller programs serve three million participants including five veterans-named programs that serve slightly more than one million veterans.

Veterans participating in "veterans-named" programs account for an estimated 3.56 percent of the 30 million participants in federal employment and training services programs in FY 2002.

### Veterans Training and Employment Programs

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Program provided job development, placement, and support services to 523,534 veterans and separating military service members and spouses in FY 2002. Veterans may include disabled veterans, homeless veterans, veterans with combat experience, wartime, selected medal recipients, economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans, or veterans in need of a State license or certification to practice or work in their trained field. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service's (VETS) Annual Report to Congress 2000 indicates that 150,086 veterans and other eligibles entered employment as a result of services during Program Year (PY) 1999. Similarly, 14,291 disabled veterans and 6,700 special disabled veterans<sup>1</sup> entered employment as a result of services provided by LVERs.

DOL's Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) develops jobs and job training opportunities for disabled and other veterans through contracts with employers. The program also promotes and develops on-the-job training and apprenticeship. According to the Assistant Secretary for VETS Annual Report to Congress 2000, 459,814 disabled veterans were served in FY 2002. Over 138,000 veterans and other eligibles entered employment in PY 1999. Of the 153,655 Vietnam-era veterans registered by DVOPs, 47,297 entered employment. DVOPs registered 50,400 disabled veterans and 16,702 entered employment. DVOPs also registered 25,155 special disabled veterans and 8,273 special disabled veterans entered employment.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program provides for services and assistance to veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, or maintain suitable employment and for severely disabled veterans to achieve maximum independence in daily living. In FY 2002, 69,634 veterans participated in the VR&E program. (VR&E statistics for 2002 indicate that 65,154 veterans with disabilities were found eligible to participate in evaluation and planning; 667 received employment services and 7,773 participants were rehabilitated with suitable employment.)

DOL's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program provides funds for demonstration programs to expedite the reintegration of 12,142 (FY 2002) homeless veterans into the labor force. Participants are "eligible veterans." In PY 1999, 4,639 homeless veterans were enrolled in to the program and 2,383 were placed or entered into unsubsidized employment.

DOL's Veterans' Workforce Investment Program supports employment and training programs through grants or contracts to meet the needs for assistance of recently-separated veterans, service-connected disabled veterans, campaign/conflict veterans, and veterans who have significant barriers to employment. In FY 2002, 4,600 veterans were served. In PY 1999, numbers included 3,162 participants, of which 2,115 were Vietnam-era veterans, 933 were recently separated veterans and 683 were disabled veterans. A total of 2,114 veterans were placed in employment.

It should be noted that new legislation, Public Law 107-288, Jobs for Veterans Act, requires "priority of service" for veterans in all Department of Labor funded programs.

By combining data elements from GAO Report, GAO-03-589, we found that a total of 1,068,724 participants were served by veterans-named federal training and employment programs. VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program assisted 69,634 Disabled Veterans exclusively (6.5 percent of total participants) in FY 2002. The Department of Labor assisted 92.4 percent of total participants as a mix of 987,948 Special Disabled Veterans, Disabled Veterans, Eligible Veterans, and Eligible Persons. Labor also assisted 12,142 Homeless "Eligible Veterans" (1.1 percent of total participants).

It is very likely that veterans with or without disabilities are also participants in other federal training and employment program that are not veterans-named programs. As an example, the Veterans Health Administration's Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) program provides vocational and psychosocial rehabilitation to enable veterans to return to working and living as independently as possible in the community. In FY 2002, CWT provided services to 14,828 unique individuals. Of the program participants, 3,480 or 40 percent of the 8,700 discharged veterans were employed.

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<sup>1</sup> A qualified "special" disabled veteran is: (1) a veteran who is entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) under the laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a disability rating of 30 percent or more; or, rated at 10 percent to 20 percent if it has been determined that the individual has a serious employment disability; or, (2) a veteran who was discharged or released from active duty because of a service connected disability.