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2019 National Minority Veterans Summit

Breakout Session: Education Benefits

VA Center for Minority Veterans

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VA Education Benefits: Know the Difference

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– and –

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Current GI Bill® Benefit Programs

- Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33)
 - Transfer of Entitlement (TOE)
 - Marine Gunnery Sergeant David Fry Scholarship
- Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB or Chapter 30)
- Montgomery GI Bill® – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR or Chapter 1606)
- Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA or Chapter 35)



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GI Bill® Education Benefits

GI Bill® benefits can be used for:

- Degrees at approved schools
- Non-college certificates or diplomas
- Apprenticeships and on-the-job training programs
- Correspondence courses
- Vocational flight training
- License and certification test
- National exams such as GRE, SAT, LSAT, CLEP, AP, and GMAT



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Post-9/11 GI Bill® Eligibility

At least 90 days of aggregate qualifying active service on or after September 11, 2001, or discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. An honorable discharge is required.

- Up to 36 months of benefits; payable for approved training on or after August 1, 2009
- Amount determined by the length of active duty service (40% up to 100%)
- For service that ended before January 1, 2013, benefit expires 15 years after last qualifying period of active duty service.
- For service that ended after January 1, 2013, benefit does not have an expiration date.



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Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Eligibility Requirements

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	% of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100%
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90%
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80%
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months*	70%
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months*	60%
At least 6 months, but less than 12 months*	50%
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months*	40%



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Post-9/11 GI Bill® Benefit Payments

Eligible Post 9/11 GI Bill® claimant may qualify to receive the following payments:

- Actual net charges for tuition and fees paid directly to the school
- Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) paid directly to the student
- Book stipend paid directly to the student



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Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Tuition and Fees Payments

Tuition and fees payable to the school are as follows:

- **U.S. Public IHL Schools**: The *actual net cost* for in-state tuition and fees after the application of any waiver, scholarship, aid, or assistance [other than loans and funds provided under section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965]
- **Private & Foreign IHL Schools and all NCD schools**: The lesser of the *actual net cost* for tuition and fees after the application of any waiver, scholarship, aid, or assistance [other than loans and funds provided under section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965], or the yearly academic cap.

The amount of the yearly cap will be adjusted each year based upon a Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) and is subject to proration based upon benefit level.



Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Tuition and Fees Payments

Individuals pursuing an approved program at an NCD school receive the lesser of the following:

The *actual net cost* for in-state tuition and fees after the application of any waiver, scholarship, aid, or assistance [other than loans and funds provided under section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965], or the yearly cap whichever is less.

The amount of the yearly cap will be adjusted each year based upon a COLA and is subject to proration based upon benefit level.

Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Tuition and Fees Payments

Post-9/11 GI Bill® pays tuition and fees to the school on behalf of the student in the following ways:

- Electronic deposit ACH clearinghouse
- Hard copy check

Payments for Yellow Ribbon and tuition and fees are separate.

Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Rate of Pursuit

The following is an important definition to know when learning about the Post-9/11 GI Bill®:

- **Rate of Pursuit (ROP):** Applies specifically to Chapter 33 and differs from training time, which is used for all other chapters. VA calculates ROP by dividing the number of credit hours or equivalents being pursued by the number of credits considered full time. The resulting percentage is the student's ROP

Examples: Full-time is 12 credits; ROP is:
6 credits (or credit equivalents) is 50% ($6/12=50\%$)
7 credits (or credit equivalents) is 58% ($7/12=58\%$)



Post-9/11 GI Bill® Housing Payments

Students training more than 50% ROP receive MHA as follows:

- **U.S. In-Residence**: The applicable MHA is multiplied by the ROP rounded to the nearest multiple of 10
- **Foreign In-Residence**: The national average of all Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates will be multiplied by the ROP rounded to the nearest multiple of 10. The rate is \$1,681.00 as of August 1, 2017
- **Online Only**: Students who are enrolled in only online classes are eligible to receive up to half of the national average. The rate for this is \$840.50 as of August 1, 2017. Rates will be multiplied by the ROP rounded to the nearest multiple of 10



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Post-9/11 GI Bill® Housing Payments

- Individual at a ROP of .54 will receive 50% of the applicable BAH rate
- Individual at a ROP of .85 will receive 90% of the applicable BAH rate

Post-9/11 GI Bill® Housing Payments

The amount payable for the MHA for any academic year (beginning on August 1) will be based upon the BAH rates effective on January 1 of that year.

This means that housing rates for Post-9/11 GI Bill® awards will change effective August 1 of each year, and not on January 1.



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Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Books and Supplies Payment

Up to \$1,000 per academic year (multiplied by percentage of benefit awarded).

- \$41.67 per credit hour
- Up to 24 credit hours in a single academic year
- Lump sum payment for IHL schools (each quarter, semester, or term attended) paid directly to the individual
- Monthly payment of \$83 for NCD only schools, prorated for partial month
- Prorated based on benefit level



Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Yellow Ribbon Program

IHLs within the US may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee costs that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition and fees.

Provides additional funding for:

- Training at private institutions
- Out-of-state tuition

Only individuals (including transferees) entitled at the 100% benefit level may receive this funding.

Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) Program

An individual approved by Department of Defense to transfer unused entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® may transfer entitlement to:

- The individual's spouse
- One or more of the individual's children
- Any combination of spouse and child

A family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits, at the time of transfer to receive transferred educational benefits.

For more information log on to: <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>



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MGS John David Fry Scholarship - Spouse

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship is for children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001.

- Up to 36 months of entitlement
- 100% under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®
- Spouse benefits do not have an expiration date
- Remarriage of spouse terminates benefit; children unaffected

MGS John David Fry Scholarship - Children

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship is for children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001.

- Up to 36 months of entitlement
- 100% under the Post-9/11 GI Bill®
- Children are eligible on their 18th birthday (unless they have already graduated high school)
- Children may use the benefit until their 33rd birthday for children who became eligible before January 1, 2013. No expiration for children who became eligible on or after January 1, 2013
- Are not eligible for the YR



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Montgomery GI Bill®

Eligibility Requirements

- Entered on active duty after June 30, 1985
- If obligated period of service is less than 3 years, the service member must serve 24 continuous months. If enlisted for 3 years or more, service member must serve at least 36 months (exceptions apply)
- Qualifying period of honorable service
- Must have not declined GI Bill® in writing at initial entry

Service branch will deduct \$1,200 from service pay.



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Tuition Assistance Top-Up

- Commonly referred to as TATU
- Active duty service members
- Program on available under MGIB
 - Post 9/11 GI Bill® beneficiaries are eligible for a similar payment, but not TATU
- VA pays the difference between what DOD pays for tuition assistance and the actual cost of the course. Entitlement charges based on what VA pays and current full time monthly rate for MGIB
- DOD pays 75% to 100% of the cost of course



Montgomery GI Bill® – Selected Reserve Eligibility Requirements

- Obligation to serve for a period of not less than 6 years after June 30, 1985
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Completed Initial Active Duty Training (IADT)
- Satisfactory participation in guard or reserve unit
- May be eligible for an incentive kicker



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Entitlement Information

- Up to 36 months of full-time benefits under one program
- Up to 48 months of combined entitlement under two or more chapters

Exceptions

If a veteran elects the Post-9/11 GI Bill® and still has eligibility under MGIB, they will receive the amount of entitlement remaining under MGIB.

Chapter 35 - receives 36 months of regular benefits plus an additional 5 months of remedial training benefits.



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Incentive Kickers & Buy Up Program

- A veteran may also be entitled to an incentive “kicker” which is payable at the service department’s discretion
- An amount added to basic monthly rate
- Service department will determine the total payable and will notify the VA
- An individual may also contribute an additional \$600 while on active duty. This contribution will add an additional \$150 to their full time monthly rate for up to 36 months (MGIB only)
- Kickers and Buy-up money is not added to the pay for active duty or less-than-1/2 time students. They receive a pay rate to cover only tuition & fees



Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Eligibility Requirements

Available to the spouse, surviving spouse, or dependent child of a veteran who:

- Is 100% permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service connected disability
- Died while rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service connected injury
- Died as a result of a service connected injury while on active duty
- Was held as a POW or was MIA for 90 days or more. This is determined by the Secretary of Defense and benefits end when the status ends



Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Entitlement Information

- Receive 36 months of full time benefits
- Receive 5 additional months of benefits for high school, remedial, refresher or deficiency training
- Spouses have 10 years from the date of veteran's death or 100% P&T rating to use benefits
- Surviving spouses of veterans killed on active duty have 20 years to use benefits
- Children generally have from the age of 18 to 26 to use their benefits



Delimiting Dates

- **Post 9/11 GI Bill®** - Eligible veterans or transferee spouses have 15 years from veteran's date of discharge.
- **MGIB** - Eligible veterans have 10 years from date of discharge
- **DEA child**- Generally have 8 years from the date she/he is found eligible, if found eligible between ages 18 to 26
- **DEA spouse** - Generally 10 years from date of veteran's service-connected death, or date VA determined service-connected disability is permanent and total, whichever is later



Delimiting Dates

- **MGIB-SR** –No delimiting date for active reservists who are satisfactorily training with a Ready Reserve unit



GI Bill® Benefit Payments

Payments for MGIB, DEA, and MGIB-SR are paid in arrears.

Example: A student will receive payment for the month of September at the beginning of October.

Post-9/11 GI Bill® payments are made as follows:

- Tuition and Fees – Paid directly to school
- Yellow Ribbon – Paid directly to school
- Books & Supplies – Paid to veteran or dependent at beginning of term
- Housing – Paid to veteran or dependent at the end of each month



How to Apply for VA Education Benefits

Apply anytime online at www.vets.gov/education

This site is a [work in progress](#). If you don't find what you need, visit [VA.gov](#).

Get help from Veterans Crisis Line >

VA | Vets.gov

Search ▾ Help ▾ Sign In | Register

Explore benefits ▾ Manage your health & benefits ▾ Find VA locations

[Home](#) > **Education Benefits**

Education Benefits

We offer Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families education benefits like help paying tuition, help finding the right school or training program, and career counseling. Explore your benefit options.

Eligibility

Find out if you qualify for VA education benefits through the GI Bill program and other educational assistance programs.

Application Process

Apply online now, or find out how to apply in person or by mail.

Compare GI Bill Benefits

Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool to see what benefits you'll get at the school you want to attend.



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Certificate of Eligibility

Once VA receives an application for education benefits, and eligibility is determined, VA mails a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the student.

COE includes the chapter of benefit awarded, entitlement, delimiting date, and other important information.



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Helpful Numbers and Websites

Education Call Center - 888-GIBILL1 (888-442-4551) . The Call Center is open from 7:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST, Monday-Friday. This number is for students.

School Certifying Officials Hotline - 855-225-1159. This number is only for SCOs. You will need your school's facility code and be listed as a SCO at your school.

GI Bill® Website – <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>

Ask A Question website – <https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/home>

Question & Answer



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Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

Tyrrell Biggers, MS, VRC
VA VetSuccess on Campus Counselor
University of Texas at Arlington

VR&E Program Mission

The VR&E Program assists qualified Veteran/Service Members with Service Connected Disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment, and/or live as Independent as possible.



Eligibility to Apply for VR&E Benefits

Veterans:

- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- A VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or memorandum rating of 20 percent are eligible to apply for services.

Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more.
- Enrolled in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).

Entitlement to VR&E Benefits

- While eligible to apply, the SM/V must meet the criteria for entitlement (except as noted below).
- Servicemembers awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty will be automatically entitled to VR&E benefits under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008.

VR&E Eligibility

The time limit for a SM/V's eligibility to receive VR&E benefits and services is limited to a 12-year period.

The 12-year period begins on the latter of these dates:

- Date of separation from active military duty, or
- Date when the Veteran was first notified of a VA service-connected disability rating.



Entitlement Determination

- A VRC works with the Veteran to complete a determination if an employment handicap exists
 - Employment Handicap- exists if the Veteran's service connected disability impairs his/her ability to obtain and maintain a job.
- A maximum of 48 months of entitlement. (eligibility may be extended if (VRC) determines that a SM/V has a serious employment handicap (SEH))

Entitlement Determination

- If the service connected disability rating is less than 20% or if beyond the 12- year basic period of eligibility then a serious employment handicap (SEH) must be found to establish entitlement to VR&E services.
- Serious Employment Handicap-is based on the extent of services required for you to overcome the barriers presented by your service and non-service connected disabilities, permitting the return to suitable employment.



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5 Tracks to Employment

1. Re-Employment
2. Rapid Access to Employment
3. Self Employment
4. Employment Through Long Term Services
5. Independent Living



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Re-Employment Track

Designed for individuals separating from active duty, National Guard, or Reserves to provide the services necessary for the individual to return to work in the job held prior to entering active duty.

Services may include:

- Consultation with your employer
- Job accommodations and modifications
- Coordination with VHA for services
- Reemployment rights advice
- Case management

Rapid Access to Employment Track

Designed for individuals expressing interest in seeking employment soon after separation and have the necessary skills to be competitive in the labor market in a suitable-occupation.

Services may include:

- Short-term training
- Individualized employment services
- Job readiness preparation
- Resume development
- Interviewing skills preparation
- Job search assistance
- Referral to Department of Labor (DOL) for employment search assistance
- Post-employment follow-up



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Self-Employment Track

Designed to provide services to SM/V who have the necessary job skills to start a business, have limited access to traditional employment or accommodating work environment due to limitations resulting from a disabling condition.

Services may include:

- Referrals to resources and guidance to assist in development of a business plan
- Analysis of business concept
- Training in small business operations, marketing, and finances
- Guidance in obtaining adequate resources to implement the business plan



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Employment Through Long-Term Services Track

Designed for individuals requiring specialized training and/or education to obtain suitable employment.

Services may include:

- Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE)
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE)
- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- College, vocational, or technical training
- Purchase of required tuition/fees/books/supplies
- Subsistence allowance
- Personalized case management support
- Individualized employment services

Independent Living Track

Designed for SM/V who are unable to pursue a vocational goal or seek employment.

Services may include:

- Acquiring assistive technology
- Independent living skills training
- Community-based support services
- Gaining increased access to the community
- Help in acquiring a volunteer position
- Home adaptations to improve independence in activities of daily living



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Veteran's Role

- Take an active, cooperative role in the process
- Maintain regular contact with VRC
- Inform VRC any barriers or issues that may prevent you from training
- Progress through the program



VR&E Employment Focus

The VR&E program provides employment services in four of the five rehabilitation tracks.

Personalized employment services may include:

- Work-readiness preparation
- Resume development and job-seeking skills
- Interviewing skills preparation
- Employment resources development
- Job accommodations
- Job placement assistance
- Post-employment follow-up
- Career counseling and rehabilitation planning

Special Employer Incentives (SEI)

- Training Costs
- VA-provided supplies
- Workplace accommodations
- Minimal paperwork to participate



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VR&E Employment Focus

Other Employment Services may include:

- Referrals to other employment resources
- Online tool that connects SM/V and employers access via <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

Department of Labor (DOL)

- Employment assistance
- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)
- Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)

VR&E Benefits and GI Bill

- Is the VR&E program the same as the GI Bill-Post 9/11?
 - No. The GI Bill and Post 9/11 are education programs.
 - The purpose of the VR&E program is to assist SM/Vs with service-connected disabilities to overcome their barriers to employment and become suitably employed.
 - Four of the five VR&E tracks of services are geared specifically toward employment.
 - The “E” in VR&E stands for the program’s mission to assist SM/Vs with obtaining and maintaining suitable Employment.



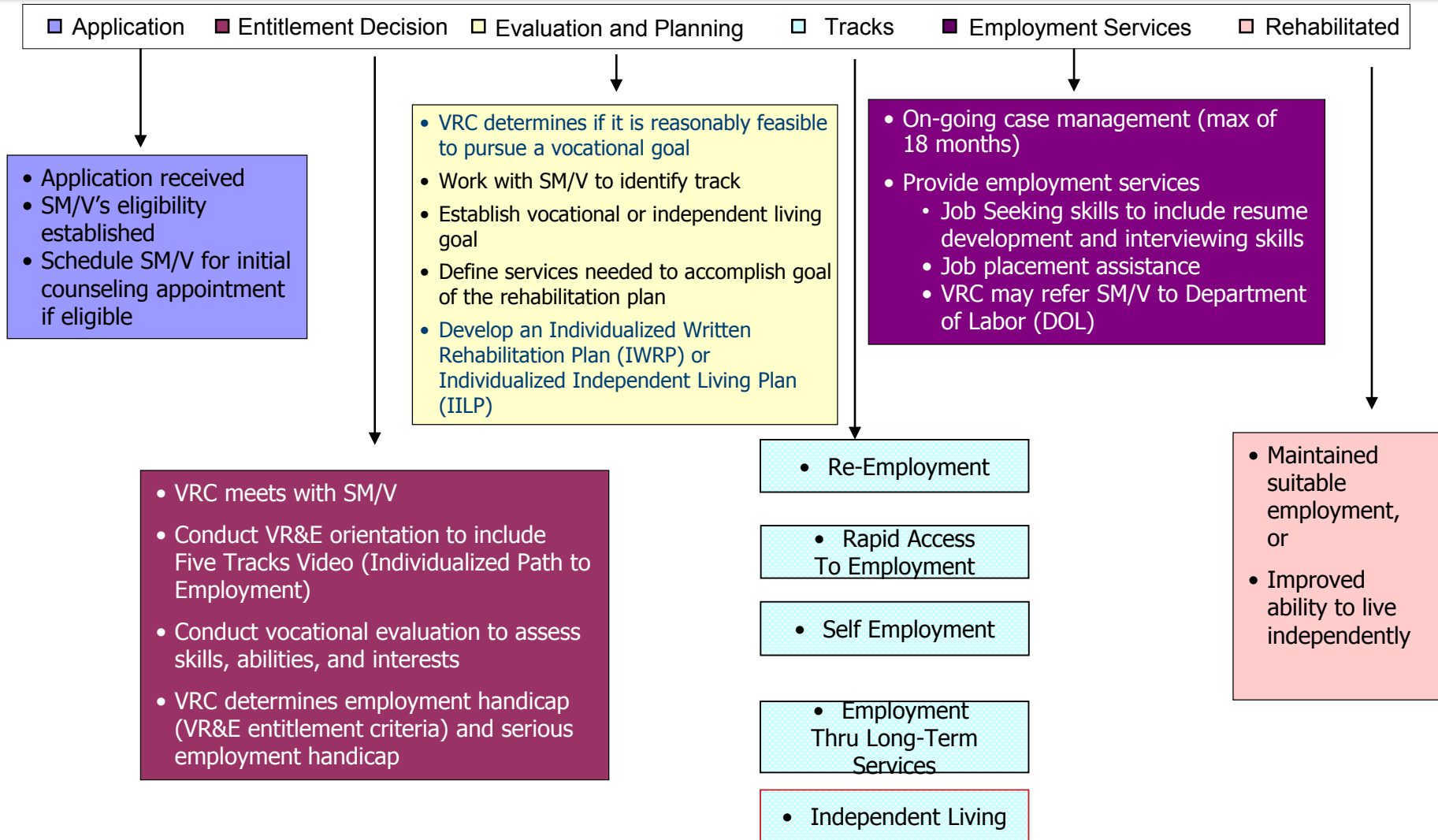
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VR&E Process



Applying for Services

Veterans can apply by one of the following ways:

On-line

- <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>
- Create an eBenefits account or login using an existing account

Mail or deliver application (VA form 28-1900) to the nearest local VA Regional Office

- 56 Regional Offices and one National Capital Regional Benefits Office (NCRBO) around the US

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>

For More Information

Find your local VR&E office by calling
Veterans Benefits Administration

Toll Free Number:
1-800-827-1000

Online Resources:

www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre

www.va.gov

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

Question & Answer



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TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Please Transition to Breakout Sessions
&
Visit Vendors in Our Exhibit Hall**

Thank You for Your Service



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