

***NEW*: Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)**

Do you know an unemployed veteran who could use financial aid to obtain an associate degree, non-college degree, or technical school and then follow-on assistance in obtaining employment in a high demand occupation? If so, please pass this article along to them.

A new program administered by Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor begins on July 1, 2012, and applications will be accepted beginning May 15, 2012. Eligible veterans can receive 12 months of assistance at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill program (currently \$1,473 per month). Every veteran who participates will receive employment assistance from the Department of Labor.

During the first eligibility period (July 1, 2012 - September 30, 2012) 45,000 veterans will be accepted into this program, and in the second period (October 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013) an additional 54,000 will be accepted.

To be eligible, veterans must meet the following criteria:

- Unemployed
- At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g., the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment)
- Not in receipt of VA compensation due to individual Unemployability (IU)
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program
- Enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school

For further information and to apply, visit http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/vrap.html.

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