

Journey to Success: Employment Tools for Veterans with Disabilities

Part 2: Packing Your Resume - Preparing for Employment



Securing today
and tomorrow



PART 2: PACKING YOUR RESUME - PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Are you, or is someone you know, a United States military Veteran who acquired a disability during or after your service?

Military Veterans bring experience and skills of great value to the workforce. This document is part of a 5-part series called Journey to Success, which describes services that help Veterans with a disability enter the workforce and find fulfilling employment. Some of the services are open only to Veterans, but many of them are available to any American with a disability. You can find other information in this series, as well as a comprehensive document including all five parts, on our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans/.

Note: The following list of resources includes federal and federally funded entities, as well as nonfederal or privately funded entities. Social Security does not endorse any of the nonfederal resources, nor does it guarantee any of the services advertised by those resources. Social Security is not responsible for the content or accessibility of third-party websites.

PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT

When preparing for employment, the questions that many of us ask ourselves are:

- “How do I keep my disability from holding me back in finding a job?”
- “What type of career do I want?”
- “Do I have the education and training I need?”

Below are resources that can help you accommodate your disability so it will not be a barrier to employment, resources that provide counseling and career services to point you in the right direction, and resources for you to get the education and training you need.

Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is a national network funded by the Department of Labor that helps identify accommodations and what is reasonable under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The JAN is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues, and works toward practical solutions that benefit both employers and employees. For more information, go to: <https://askjan.org/>.

Rehabilitation Services Administration State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs provide free vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities nationwide. These include education, equipment, and other services you might need to reach a vocational goal. For more information, go to: www.choosework.net/findhelp/.

I Can Connect is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that funds equipment and provides training for adaptive communications technology if you have both hearing and vision loss. A tax on phone bills funds these services. The goods and services that I Can Connect provides are free to the consumer. For more information, go to: www.icanconnect.org.

Agency on Community Living (ACL) funds programs throughout the country that support people with disabilities to live independently. These Independent Living Centers are community-based, and they provide a variety of free services. For more information, go to: <https://acl.gov/>.

Assistive Technology Programs (ATP) are also funded by the ACL. These state programs offer people with disabilities the chance to test adaptive technology before buying it. Each state has an ATP, and each will demonstrate technology for you, and even loan it to you to ensure a tool is right for you before you buy one for yourself. Some ATP agencies also have low-interest loans to help you purchase what you need. For more information, go to: <https://acl.gov/programs/assistive-technology/assistive-technology>.

Benefits.gov has a rich list of resources for housing, transportation, employment, financial support, and Veterans' services. For more information go to: www.benefits.gov.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COUNSELING

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists provide intensive services to meet the employment needs of disabled and other eligible Veterans, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving those who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, including homeless Veterans and Veterans with barriers to employment. For more information, go to: www.dol.gov/vets/veterans.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is a cooperative effort between Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). TAP provides career information for active duty service members, National Guard, Reserves, and spouses of service members separating or retiring from the military. For more information, go to: www.taonline.com/TAPOffice/.

American Job Centers provide an integrated array of high-quality services so that workers, job seekers, and businesses can conveniently find the help they need under one roof in easy to reach locations. For more information, go to: www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx.

Job Corps provides room and board, counseling, mentoring services, and basic medical care while students under age 24 are in the program. Additionally, it provides career counseling and transitional support for up to 12 months after graduation. Job Corps offers training in more than 100 career areas, and all programs start students on a path toward industry-recognized credentials. For more information, go to: <https://www.jobcorps.gov/>.

Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) is committed to advancing the post-service lives of America's service members, Veterans, and their families. Its professional staff delivers programs in career, vocations, and entrepreneurship education and training to post-9/11 Veterans and active duty military spouses, as well as tailored programs to Veterans of all eras.

The IVMF also works with communities and non-profits across the nation to enhance service delivery for the 22.5 million Veterans (and their families) throughout the United States. For more information, go to: <https://ivmf.syracuse.edu>.

VA Educational and Vocational Counseling helps you assess vocational interests, aptitudes, and abilities; explore vocational career opportunities; select an appropriate vocational goal; address barriers that may impede success in training or employment; and develop educational program objectives. For more information, go to: www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/edu_voc_counseling.asp.

VA Readjustment Counseling provides eligible Veterans and their families readjustment counseling through 300 Vet Centers located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and Guam. For more information, go to: www.vetcenter.va.gov.

Veterans Service Organizations offer Veteran-to-Veteran support and networking. For more information, go to: www.va.gov/vso/.

EDUCATION

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an application used by almost all two- and four-year colleges, universities, and career schools for awarding federal, state, and college-funded student aid. For more information, go to: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC) is a tax credit used to offset the cost of tuition and related expenses. It can help eligible students pay for undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree courses to improve job skills. For more information, go to: www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/lifetime-learning-credit.

Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of financial support to active or honorably discharged military members serving after September 10, 2001 who wish to pursue additional education. Depending on your length of service, you may be eligible for benefits that cover up to 100 percent of tuition and fees paid to your school, a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies of up to \$1000 per year. For more information, go to: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33_pamphlet.pdf.

U.S. Department of Education Federal Work-Study Program (FWS) funds part-time employment for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay postsecondary education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study. The total award depends on when the student applies, the level of need, and the funding level of the school. For more information, go to: www2.ed.gov/programs/fws/index.html.

TRAINING

Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) provides resources to help Veterans get the training and support they need to find the careers they want. For more information, the Department of Labor provides a brochure at: www.dol.gov/vets/programs/vwip/veterans_workforce_investment.pdf.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) provides homeless Veterans customized employment and training services to assist them in successfully transitioning into the labor force. For more information, go to: www.voa.org/homeless-veterans-reintegration-program.

VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Services for Veterans with Disabilities helps transitioning service members and Veterans with service-connected disabilities and barriers to work prepare for, find, and keep employment. Services may include employment assistance, short- and long-term training, purchase of required supplies and equipment, and on-the-job training. For more information, go to: www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/.

Thank You

Social Security thanks you for your service and sacrifice. We hope these resources are helpful to you on your employment adventure!



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