All staff should be made aware of the Veteran’s Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) which is part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. On November 21, 2011, President Obama signed the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 into law which established the VRAP in title II of Pub. L. 112-56. The VRAP directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in cooperation with the Department of Labor to pay for up to 12 months of a retraining assistance in a “high demand” occupation for unemployed eligible veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 as determined by DOL and VA.

All veterans who visit DET One-Stops from now until 10/1/2013 should be made aware of this opportunity and how to apply. Any veterans who are referred to the website/application process should be given attached VOW fact sheet and service, “**VRAP-referral**” should be entered in Job Service or RES/REA enrollment.

In order to qualify for retraining assistance, a veteran must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

* be at least 35 but not more than 60 years old, at the time of application;
* be unemployed on the date of application;
* not enrolled in any Federal or state job training program at any time during the previous 180-day period as of the application date;
* in receipt of an other than dishonorable discharge from the last period of service in the armed forces;
* not eligible for any other VA education benefit program;
* not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability; and
* submit an application no later than October 1, 2013.

Interested veterans will be able to apply for the program through a joint VA/DOL electronic application that will be accessed from multiple web sites (including USDOL’s web site) that are linked to the VOW to Hire Heroes Act web site (<http://benefits.va.gov/vow>), which will be available beginning on May 15, 2012, to accept applications. USDOL and VA are responsible for determining different sections of the eligibility criteria. USDOL is responsible for determining age, whether the applicant is unemployed on the date of application, enrollment status in a Federal or state job training program within the previous 180-days, and that the application was submitted no later than October 1, 2013. VA is responsible for determining each applicant’s discharge status, eligibility for other VA education benefits, and if the applicant is in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability (for more information on Individual Unemployability, <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/serviceconnected/IU.asp>).

The online application has two parts. Once the veteran successfully completes the first part, (five short questions), they are notified on the screen that they can continue to the second part or they have been denied and the reason. The second part of the application will require the veteran to choose the “high demand” career of their choice and the training institute. They will also have to enter banking information and other information. If they are approved, they will receive a monthly stipend of $1,473/month. If the veteran is not approved, they will be notified by mail and the information on how to appeal the decision. The DVET for each state may make the final determination of eligibility.

At the conclusion or termination of the training program VA will notify DET. DVOP/LVER assigned to the veteran will call them to come in for an initial assessment within 10 days of the notification. If the veteran does not reply to outreach, a letter will be mailed to them within 30 days requesting them to contact the local DVOP/LVER within 10 days in order to receive employment services. If veteran does not respond to letter within 10 days, no further action is required. If the veteran is registered with DET a program note is entered in the job service enrollment notating the outreach.