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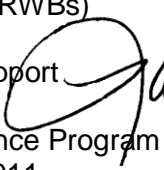
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## ***DEO Communiqué***

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**DATE:** May 17, 2012

**TO:** Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs)

**FROM:** Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, Workforce Program Support 

**SUBJECT:** TEN 43-11, Overview of the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), section 211 of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the workforce system with an overview of VRAP and the role of the One-Stop Career Centers in implementing the program. This joint document was released simultaneously as TEN 43-11 and [Veterans Program Letter \(VPL\) 07-12](#).

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 21, 2011, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 was signed into law and established the VRAP. The VRAP directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) to pay for up to 12 months of retraining assistance in “high demand” occupations for unemployed eligible veterans between the ages of 35 and 60. Up to 45,000 veterans may enroll in this program in Fiscal Year 2012, beginning July 1, 2012, and up to 54,000 veterans may enroll in Fiscal Year 2013.

Veterans will be able to apply for the program through a joint VA/USDOL electronic application linked to the VOW to Hire Heroes Act ([benefits.va.gov/vow](http://benefits.va.gov/vow)). Eligibility is determined both by the USDOL (demographic and employment/unemployment status) and VA (veteran status/receipt of other veteran benefits). Eligible veterans will be eligible to receive a VRAP stipend from the VA for enrolling full time in training in a “high demand” occupation in a community college or technical school.

The VA will administer the training benefit. The One-Stop Career system is expected to provide outreach to potentially eligible veterans who seek workforce services. Beyond dedicated veteran staff (Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program specialists and Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives), One-Stop case managers should assist in this effort. The workforce system

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will need to contact veterans who complete or leave the training to provide employment services.

As the program start date approaches, the USDOL will host a webinar and provide additional guidance on how to recruit and assist veterans interested in applying for the program.

### **ACTION REQUIRED**

Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) field staff, DVOP and LVER staff, and One-Stop case managers as well as other local staff need to become familiar with this guidance. Additional information about VRAP will be forthcoming.

### **AUTHORITY**

United States Department of Labor

### **ATTACHMENT**

[TEN 43-11](#)  
[VOW Factsheet](#)