



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington DC 20420

March 5, 2014

Dear School Certifying Official:

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) authority to issue payments under the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) ends March 31, 2014. If you have students enrolled in a training program that are receiving benefits under VRAP, please ensure that you are familiar with the information in this letter.

VA will accept enrollment certifications from School Certifying Officials through March 17, 2014, to meet the congressionally mandated end date for issuance of payments under the program. Enrollment certifications will not be accepted after March 17, 2014.

To ensure participants can complete their training for the current enrollment period, VA will issue a one-time payment for students enrolled in a training program for training completed from April 1 through the end of the term, quarter, or semester, but no later than June 30, 2014. No payments will be made for enrollment periods that begin after March 31 or for training completed after June 30. The payment is limited to each Veteran's remaining VRAP entitlement and only to the end of the Veteran's current enrollment period.

There is no change to the verification process for students in March. Students should verify enrollment as usual through VA's Web Automated Verification of Enrollment or Interactive Voice Response on or after March 31. Students must notify School Certifying Officials and VA at 1-888-GI Bill-1 (1-888-442-4551) of any changes in enrollment that occur on or after April 1, 2014.

School Certifying Officials must continue to review enrollments and report changes to enrollment periods certified to VA, including changes in training pursued after the March 31 end date for issuance of payments. Overpayments are possible if Veterans make a change in their training program. For example, a Veteran who is paid through June 15th and withdraws or reduces his/her training to less than full-time on April 1st will have an overpayment of \$4,120. If a reduction in a Veteran's training program occurs, please report this to VA as early as possible.

We encourage you to provide information about federal student aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education and other financial assistance available at your institution to students who are currently enrolled in VRAP and whose training programs extend beyond the current enrollment term or semester.

The VRAP program was established to help unemployed Veterans between 35 and 60 achieve meaningful employment in a high-demand occupation. Our partners at the Department of Labor (DOL) administer over 2,500 American Job Centers across the country staffed with employment counselors available to help Veterans find employment. Veterans can find the closest one here: www.servicelocator.org.

We hope this information is helpful. While the VRAP program is ending, we want current VRAP beneficiaries to be successful in pursuing additional retraining assistance through financial aid and in finding meaningful employment with assistance at their nearest American Job Center. Please help us ensure your Veteran students take advantage of these important resources.



Curtis L. Coy
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Economic Opportunity