

Veterans Rapid Response (VR²) Program

April 2006

- 1) *Since veterans must meet local WIA requirements, what is the expected contribution of the training \$\$ from WIA versus the VR² contribution? How does this \$\$ interact?*

Contributions through cost-sharing initiatives from other program sources are encouraged. No expected contribution amount or percentage has been established. Local policies, funds availability, and customer eligibility should all be taken into consideration when making cost-sharing decisions.

- 2) *Regarding the medical services...does the veteran secure the insurance and get reimbursed somehow?*

The VR² Program can provide funds to the local areas for health insurance premiums (during training) for eligible veterans. Processes and procedures for obtaining this coverage are best developed at the county level. It is known and understood that some counties currently have no mechanisms in place to facilitate insurance premium payments. One method that has been used is to first determine the cost of coverage based on the dates of training. Once that determination has been made, the funds for the insurance are then transferred to the veteran for use in making the insurance premium payment.

For more information on health insurance companies (including open enrollment periods, insurance companies authorized to transact business in Ohio, etc.), please visit the Ohio Department of Insurance web site at <http://www.ohioinsurance.gov>.

- 3) *Is the veteran limited to training identified on the approved Eligible Training Provider (ETP) list?*

Yes, all training providers must be on the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) list.

- 4) *Generally speaking, in order to qualify as a Dislocated Worker, a customer has to be terminated or laid-off. How does that work for separating military personnel?*

It is Department of Labor policy that military service members discharged (under honorable circumstances) either voluntarily or involuntarily terminated an employment relationship between an individual and the military and thus falls within the scope of the termination component of the WIA definition of a dislocated worker. For more information, see Training and Employment Guidance Letter 22-04, which can be accessed through http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_list.cfm.

- 5) ***With VSTP, WIA areas received 10% administrative funds with each VSTP request. Will this change under VR² ?***

No, it will not change. The 10% will still be included with this program.

- 6) ***Can health insurance coverage begin before the veteran enters a training program? Can we use VR² to pay for actual health care?***

No, coverage cannot commence until the eligible veteran begins the training. VR² funds cannot be used to pay for any health care, only for health insurance premiums.

- 7) ***If a veteran is receiving assistance from another program like TAA, can he/she still receive assistance from VR²?***

Yes. As long as the requested assistance from VR² is not already being funded by another program, VR² can supplement (up to established limits).

- 8) ***If we are working with a vet who is eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill, should he/she be using the GI Bill dollars or VR²?***

WIA specifically requires that funds not be used to pay for the cost of training when grant assistance from other sources are available. However, WIA funds may be used when a participant has applied for PELL and the status is pending. Under WIA, when a PELL grant has been awarded, WIA is reimbursed only for the cost of tuition from the PELL grant.

Local areas must determine the availability and mix of funding sources, excluding loans, when determining the individual's need for WIA. The Montgomery GI Bill and WIA source should be considered to ensure that the individual's training and supportive services needs can be met so the individual can successfully complete training.

- 9) ***Can insurance premiums paid for under the VR² program be paid for a veterans family or only for the veteran?***

Health insurance premiums paid for under the VR² program can be paid to continue the current coverage of a Veteran and his/her dependent(s) such as through a COBRA continuation provision. In addition, coverage may also be provided for the spouse and dependents of an eligible individual if they were part of the Veterans coverage at the time of separation. Dependents are limited to those persons who are allowable dependent deductions on the eligible individual's tax return.

If the Veteran does not have medical insurance or a continuation coverage: medical insurance can be secured for the Veteran only.

- 10) *We understand that we need to assist our Veteran Representative with determining WIA eligibility determination, but should our county veterans seeking tuition and/or supportive services be following the local WIA policies?***

Yes, local WIA policies take precedence over VR² and/or VSTP policies.

- 11) *Are there certain things that cannot be purchased with VR² (i.e. - vehicle, food, etc.)? Is there a list of specific items that can or cannot be purchased?***

The VR² program uses the local ITA systems and vendors. The one thing to keep in mind is that VR² is not meant to override local policies on training amounts or types of supportive services provided. Local policies take precedence over VR² policies. Therefore, you should treat these funds the same way you would treat your own Rapid Response funds. As you are aware, allowable costs are outlined in A-87, and must be reasonable and necessary in order to complete training activities.

- 12) *Can a vet get multiple credentials? Locally, our county will fund only one unless there are progressive steps to increase self sufficiency (i.e. - STNA to LPN to RN).***

Again, local policies prevail.

- 13) *Regarding On-the-Job Training (OJT): Locally, we have not funded any OJTs with WIA. In order to approve an OJT, the training must be WIA approved and on the state OJT / Customized ETP list. I believe our veteran representative is planning on doing some OJT's. Does he need to get the WIA OJT approved?***

Yes, OJTs need to be approved just like any other training. We will not approve any contracts without a WIA Case Manager's signature on the Request Form.

- 14) *Under VR², will the WIA Areas still receive allocation letters for the funding they request?***

Yes, the fiscal process remains the same as it is with VSTP, although it is drawn down under a separate funding code.