

Categories and Levels of Services Provided To Self-Employment and Homebound Trained Disabled Individuals.

Reference: Circular 28-97-1 Revision October 29, 2004

Counselors will assign a Chapter 31 entitled disabled individual to one of two categories of services when either self-employment and /or homebound training are the elected training choice for vocational goal attainment:

(1) Category I Individuals.

Counselors will assign a chapter 31 entitled individual who is found to have the *most severe service-connected disability(ies)* to Category I as described below. Category I individuals are entitled to the special self-employment services and assistance outlined in 1.a) through c) below. Category I includes disabled individuals who meet all three of the following conditions:

- (a) Individuals determined by VA to have the Most Severe Service-Connected Disability(ies).
That is, they are occupationally restricted to a prohibited degree and the individual "requires" self-employment and/or homebound training to achieve vocational rehabilitation; and...
- (b) Individuals determined by VA to have employability limitations that are so severe that self-employment and/or homebound training is the only vocational training/goal option; *and...*
- (c) All other reasonable employment goals and/or modes of training are unsuitable due to the severity of his/her service connected disability(ies).

1. Services available to Category I Individuals. VR&E may provide the following level of special services and assistance to individuals assigned to Category I.

- a. Comprehensive training in the operation of a small business;
- b. Minimum stocks of materials such as an inventory of salable merchandise or goods;
- c. Expendable items required for day-to-day operations, and items which are consumed on the premises
- d. Essential equipment, including machinery, occupational fixtures, accessories, and appliances; and
- e. Incidental services such as business license fees.

(2) Category II Individuals.

Counselors will assign a chapter 31 entitled individual who does not have the most severe service-connected disability(ies) to Category II as describe below. Category II individuals are entitled to limited self-employment services and assistance outlined in 2.a) and (b below. Category II includes disabled individuals who meet the following conditions:

- (a) Individuals determined by VA to have an Employment Handicap; or
- (b) Individuals determined by VA to have a Serious Employment Handicap (SEH) but the service-connected disability(ies) are determined NOT to be the most severe, as indicated in Category I.

1. Services available to Category II Individuals. VR&E may provide the following limited level of self-employment services to Category II individuals if it is determined that consideration of self-employment is appropriate to help these individuals successfully achieve suitable employment.

- a. Incidental training in the management of a small business;
- b. License or other fees required for employment and self-employment;
- c. The personal tools and supplies which the individual would ordinarily require to begin employment.

(3) Services and assistance which VA may NOT authorize.

Certain discrete services may not be provided to either Category I or Category II disabled individuals participating in self-employment and/or homebound training programs. VA may not under any circumstances authorize assistance for any of the following:

- (a) Full or partial payment to purchase land or buildings;
- (b) Purchase or rentals of cars, trucks, or other vehicles;
- (c) Lease or rental payments;
- (d) Stocking either a farm for animal husbandry operations or a fishery.