

SELF-EMPLOYMENT FACT SHEET

Category I: Special Self-Employment Assistance and Services

This category includes veterans who meet all three of the following conditions:

- Veterans determined by VA to have the most severe service-connected disabilities and require self-employment and/or homebound training to achieve vocational rehabilitation;
- Veterans determined by VA to have employability limitations that are so severe they require self-employment as a vocational goal; and
- All other reasonable employment goals and/or modes of training are unsuitable due to the severity of their service-connected disabilities.

Self-Employment Assistance for Category I Veterans:

The following self-employment assistance and services may be provided to Category I veterans, as necessary to help them successfully begin to operate their own businesses:

- Comprehensive training (based on eligibility criteria for Category I or Category II Levels of Service);
- Minimum stocks of materials such as an inventory of salable merchandise or goods, expendable items required for day-to-day operations, and items which are consumed on the premises;
- Essential equipment, including machinery, occupational fixtures, accessories, and appliances;
- Incidental services such as business license fees.

Category II: Self-Employment Assistance for Other Veterans

This category includes veterans who meet the following conditions:

- Veterans determined by VA to have an Employment Handicap; or

- Veterans with a Serious Employment Handicap, but service-connected disability(ies) which are not determined to be most severe.

Self-Employment Assistance for Category II Veterans:

Veterans in Category II may not be furnished any of the special assistance and services identified in Category I. However, they may be provided the following limited self-employment assistance and services as necessary to help them successfully begin to operate their own businesses:

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

Supplies and Related Assistance Which VA May <u>Not</u> Authorize
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VA may not under any circumstances authorize any of the following:

- Full or partial payment to purchase land or buildings
- Lease or rental payments
- Purchase or rentals of cars, trucks, or other vehicles
- Stocking either a farm or fishery operation

Business Consultant's Role in the Self-Employment Process
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- Does not develop the business plan, but guides the veteran through the process with expertise and a realistic perspective
- Recommends potential funding sources
- May help assemble a funding package
- Suggests marketing strategies
- May conduct a feasibility analysis
- May make recommendations on the viability of the proposed business
- May monitor progress on a monthly basis