

Subject: Veteran Service Organization Integration into the VA Transition Assistance Program One-Day

The Veterans Benefits Administration's Outreach, Transition and Economic Development (OTED), in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) and several accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), has worked to streamline the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Benefits and Services course to provide an opportunity for accredited VSOs to connect with transitioning Service members.

Background:

During fiscal year 2023, OTED's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), in coordination with interagency partners, conducted an annual review of the TAP curriculum. VA focused on integrating VSOs, as well as increasing practical exercises, self-guided activities, and microlearning videos. The streamlined curriculum allows for up to 45 minutes at the end of the VA Benefits and Services (VA TAP One-Day) course to integrate VSOs.

Goal:

The goal of this collaborative effort is to educate, inform and empower transitioning Service members by providing valuable VSO information and resources. This effort is aimed at fostering connections with VSOs and increasing benefit utilization.

VSO Role:

Please utilize this time to highlight the value of using a VA-accredited VSO as a trusted advocate and resource before, during and after their transition. Inform transitioning Service members that accredited VSOs help ensure they have access to responsible and qualified representation during the VA benefits claims process. Remind transitioning Service members that accredited VSOs are free and offer professional assistance that can help transitioning Service members, Veterans and their families receive the benefits they've earned and deserve —health care, disability, employment, education, financial benefits and more. We also encourage you to provide information on the unique programs and resources that are available from your respective VSO.

Next Steps:

The official launch for VSO integration into the VA TAP One-Day course is **January 2, 2024**.

VSO representatives are required to register using the link below to participate directly after the VA TAP One-Day course during the structured 45-minute session. Up to three accredited VSO representatives can register for a 15-minute time slot. Representatives must have a VA Personal Identify Verification card and be logged onto the VA network (Citrix) to access the registration tool. First-time users will have to request access.

Link:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/vbaoted/apps/vsoReg/vsoEventRegistration.aspx>

A registration email will be provided through the registration tool. Installation access must be worked through the installation.