

VA SkillBridge Partnership



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The VBA Office of Transition and Economic Development:

- ✓ **Is the designated authority** for VA SkillBridge implementation
- ✓ **Serves as the liaison** to DoD SkillBridge program office
- ✓ **Provides planning guidance and resources** to VA organizations that want to develop and implement a SkillBridge program

Each year, approximately **200,000** members of the U.S. Armed Forces



stationed at over military installations in the U.S. and overseas, will separate from active duty.



Through the SkillBridge program, VA organizations gain early access to the **extensive experience, skills and unmatched leadership** these service members bring to the workforce.

Why VA SkillBridge?

SkillBridge, a program managed by Department of Defense (DoD), offers employment training, internship, and apprenticeship opportunities to transitioning service members to help make the shift from military to civilian life easier. In December 2019, VA and DoD entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand SkillBridge across VA lines of business.

More than 1,000 organizations, both private and public sector, participate in SkillBridge, and now **VA intends to extend opportunities to train transitioning service members for VA jobs** in law enforcement, medical service, claims processing, and beyond. Through the SkillBridge program, VA organizations gain early access to the extensive experience, skills, and unmatched leadership service members bring to the workforce.

How Does It Work?

Employers craft SkillBridge programs to meet their specific workforce needs, matching those needs to the skills and abilities of highly motivated service members. Within VA, TED will provide guidance and support for lines of business that want to create their own uniquely-branded SkillBridge program.

While service members participate in SkillBridge, they continue to receive their salary and benefits. Participation in SkillBridge typically occurs during the last 180 days of service.

Military installation Commanders often make training facilities available to VA organizations for use in their SkillBridge programs, or service members may be authorized to train at VA locations off installation.

Is SkillBridge right for my organization?

To be a successful VA SkillBridge partner, **your organization must:**

- ✓ **Have developed or have the resources to develop and conduct** a clearly defined job training and career development program designed to enhance opportunities for transitioning service members
- ✓ **Have considerable staffing needs** (current and forecasted)
- ✓ **Require specialized training** to support your mission and be able to adapt training for transitioning service members
- ✓ Be **committed to enabling the transitioning service members** to gain the necessary employment skills, knowledge, and abilities **to jumpstart a career within VA**
- ✓ **Ensure a high probability of employment** for program graduates

To learn more, contact:
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DoD SKILLBRIDGE