



Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

Apprenticeship & Training Division

Date: 4/15/2015
To: Veteran Apprentices, Employees and Trainees
From: John Kersey, Oregon State Approving Agency Director
Subject: Department of Veteran's Affairs Outreach and Benefits Information

This memo will introduce the federal Department of Veteran's Affairs opportunity for veterans to use GI Bill benefits for trainee and apprenticeship programs. All of the official information that the Department of Veteran's Affairs provides to employers and veterans is located on their main website at: <http://www.va.gov/> and also <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>. The program is also covered under the Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations found here: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/topic-title38.asp>.

Program Description and Prerequisites:

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has instituted a program that allows veterans to use their G.I. Bill benefits while employed in positions that have a structured On-the-Job Training program (OJT) or a Registered Apprenticeship program. The Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) provides payment in the form of a tax-free stipend every month to the veteran while they receive training in the approved program.

In order to qualify for benefits, the veteran must meet the following criteria:

1. You must have been released from active duty within the past 15 years with an Honorable Discharge.
2. The occupation must have a federally registered occupational code.
3. You must be hired into a structured training program. (Occupational Standard)
4. The structured training program must be no less than 1000 hours.
5. You must have a structured pay scale that has a step progression to a journeyman or production wage at the end of the program.
6. Upon completion of the program, you will have attained journeyman or job certification status in the approved occupation.

If any employer and the veteran are able to meet all these prerequisites, then the facility may be approved and the veteran may receive their GI Bill educational and OJT benefits.

Veteran Benefits:

When a veteran is employed in an occupation by an employer or organization that is approved to train veterans, the veteran may certify their hours monthly to receive a tax-free stipend while participating in the program. The stipend amount varies per veteran dependent upon what chapter the veteran is enrolled in (Chapter 30, 33, 35, 1606 and 1607), contractual agreements determined at time of enlistment (kickers) and amount of time served.

This letter is to serve as a notification that if you are a veteran that meets the above criteria then you may be eligible to take advantage of this program. Please have your employer contact John Kersey, the SAA Director for the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, for the initialization of the approval process.

Thank you,

John Kersey
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