

News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2012**

MEDIA CONTACT
Tasya Peterson
602-542-5204
TasyaPeterson@azdes.gov

DES helps unemployed veterans, potential employers apply for new benefits program

PHOENIX – Beginning July 1, unemployed veterans in the state of Arizona will be eligible to apply for a new training assistance program called the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), which is part of the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 passed by Congress last fall.

“DES is working diligently to ensure our veterans have access to all of the benefits available to them through the VOW to Hire Heroes Act,” said Director Clarence H. Carter. “Our military servicemen and women have done an incredible service to our country; it’s only right that we do our best to help them obtain the training needed to re-enter the workforce when they return home.”

VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans and also provides disabled veterans who have exhausted their unemployment benefits up to one year of additional VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits.

DES’ Employment Administration has played an instrumental role in publicizing the new programs to unemployed veterans in Arizona, many of whom already receive services through the agency’s Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS). Employees with the DERS Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program are now screening veterans for eligibility and assisting with the application process. In addition, information on the VRAP program is available at all One Stop Centers and DES Employee Assistance offices. DES staff members are also available to disseminate informational materials at community events and to community based organizations, veterans’ services organizations and other partners.

More information on the program can be found on the [VA website](#). Arizona veterans who need assistance to apply for the benefits can contact a [DES veterans’ representative statewide](#).

###