[redacted]
U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veteran Readiness and Employment
Contract Counselor
[redacted]

INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name of Veteran	
Referral Number	Credit Card Referral
VA VRC	VA ,
Name of Evaluator	[redacted]
Dates: Initial contact/Assessment	**Initial Contact:** **Assessment Date:**
Location of assessment	Veteran's Home address:

Veteran's Height: **Weight:** **Age:**
Military Brach:
Date of service:
Mos/duties while in the Military:

Service-Connected Disability Descriptions: List your ratings by %

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

Veteran's Potential IL Goal:

The purpose of IL services is to enable the claimant, to the maximum extent possible, to live independently and participate in family and community life. IL services are also provided to increase the claimant's potential to return to work by providing services designed to lessen or accommodate the effects of the disability(ies). The services offered by the VR&E program are

governed by **38 U.S.C. 3104**. IL services are outlined in **38 CFR 21.160**. IL services are individualized and designed to assist the claimant achieve the maximum level of independence possible, and when feasible, to increase the claimant's potential to return to work. Additionally, the need for any supplies or equipment considered to address an IL need must be substantiated by results of both the preliminary and comprehensive IL assessments.

This contractor follows the M28C.IV.C.6 Independent Living Plan guidelines for this evaluation.

Please answer each question with a narrative description to include strengths, weaknesses, and issues. Yes/No responses to the questions are not an acceptable assessment, just answer the best you can and I will help you when I come over:-)) I know this is a long form, but it will assist me in assisting you in providing a clear picture to the VA of your Independent Living situation! I may also take pictures if needed to support your assessment.

The following questions and descriptions are meant to be an example of the type of information being assessed.

Mobility - Ability to move efficiently from place to place within the home and community, which includes accessible means of transportation, if appropriate:

Identifying Appropriate Housing Accommodations:

VR&E will work closely with other entities within VA to identify appropriate housing accommodations when indicated to ensure that the accommodations are necessary, feasible, and provided in an appropriate manner.

The claimant can apply for SAH, Special Home Adaptation (SHA), and Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grants online at **Ebenefits website** or by completing and submitting **VAF 26-4555**, Veterans Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant to VBA.

To apply for a HISA grant, the claimant must have a prescription from a VA or fee-basis physician, in addition to completing and submitting **VAF 10-0103**, Veterans Application for Assistance in Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations, to VHA. To qualify for home modifications that require construction under a VA program, such as VR&E Housing Adaptation Grant, SAH, SHA, TRA, or HISA, or as a part of an IILP, the claimant must provide evidence of title information per **38 CFR 36.4402**. This ensures that the title is good and marketable, with no liens attached to the property and verifies the ownership of the property.

List Current housing accommodations??:

Recommended Housing accommodations:

Can the veteran move safely around their home and community, explain?

Is there safe ingress and egress (Steps) in the veteran's home?

Are there barriers to mobility within the veteran's home?

8. Equipment to Increase Independence in Activities of Daily Living

(Change Date March 31, 2014)

VHA Rehabilitation and Prosthetics is the primary provider for equipment to increase independence in daily living. However, the equipment may be provided to increase activities of daily living (ADL), as indicated on the VA Form **(VAF) 28-0791**, Preliminary Independent Living Assessment, if such equipment is not provided by VHA. Examples of this type of equipment include, but are not limited to the following:

- Grab bars to increase independence and safety with bathing and toileting
- Shower chairs
- Raised toilet seats
- Shoehorns
- Grabbers to extend reach and mobility

Equipment to Increase Independence in Activities of Daily Living:

What distance is the veteran capable of walking in varied weather conditions?

Are there any physical barriers and/or disability ramifications that impact the veteran's ability to independently move from place to place?

Mobility Aids Limitations:

3. Mobility Aids

(Change Date August 15, 2013)

If the preliminary or comprehensive IL needs assessment indicates that the claimant my benefit from a mobility device, such as a wheelchair or mobility scooter, **VAF 28-8861**, Request for Medical Services-Chapter 31, must be sent to the prosthetics staff at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) to request a mobility assessment.

VAMC will determine the type of mobility device the claimant may need and will decide if the device or equipment can be provided by VHA.

The VA physician must concur on the need for a mobility device to ensure that the device is a medical need and not merely an expressed desire by the claimant. If the VA physician agrees that the mobility device is needed and the device cannot be provided through VHA, VR&E may provide the device as part of an IILP.

A tractor, mower, or similar equipment is not considered as a mobility device or addresses an IL need since these are prohibited goods as outlined in **M28C.IV.C.2**.

What mobility aids do you currently use or may be needed? Is the veteran willing to use the above, please List:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Does the veteran have means for transportation?

Does the veteran live close to or have access to public transportation?

Are there any restrictions to the public transportation for the veteran, i.e. para-transit eligibility, etc.?

Does the veteran have friends, family or support services to provide reliable transportation when needed?

Communication - Accurate and efficient transmission and/or reception of information, both verbally and non-verbally, which includes the claimant's use of a telephone or adaptive equipment to communicate with family members, medical providers, friends, and others in the community.

Does the veteran have access to a telephone?

Does the veteran have appropriate phone numbers to use in case of an emergency?

Does the veteran know how to use the telephone?
Are there any disability ramifications that make use of a telephone difficult or impossible?

Does the veteran's housing situation facilitate or interfere with improved independence, please discuss below?

Interfere:

Facilitate:

The housing situation such as owning, renting, subsidized, house, or apartment, and the physical layout of the home?

If the veteran is receiving subsidized housing, are they complying with the requirements?

Are there other people living with the veteran such as a spouse, children, grandchildren, or roommates?

Do other members of the veteran's household contribute to or diminish the veteran's independence?

Could other people who are not living with the Veteran cause potential problems as the veteran works to improve their independence?

Are there environmental factors in the veteran's housing situation that are detrimental (noisy area, unsafe area, etc.)?

Does the veteran have children? If yes, are daycare and backup daycare arrangements available?

Does the veteran have children or other dependents in the family unit they take responsibility for?

Is there someone else at the home to provide daycare services? If yes, are they reliable?

Does the veteran have a daycare provider? If yes, are they reliable?
Does the veteran have a backup daycare provider?

Does the veteran have a plan for the children in the event of a medical emergency?

Self-Care - Skills necessary to fulfill basic needs, such as access health care, safety, food preparation, hygiene, grooming, and money management.

Does the veteran have the means and ability to adequately and appropriately meet their nutritional needs?

Can the veteran safely and independently prepare meals and snacks?

If not, does the veteran have someone who can assist them?

Does the veteran (or the Veteran's meal preparer/provider) understand and adhere to any special dietary considerations the Veteran may have?

Can the veteran shop independently or are other arrangements in place to ensure that food is available?

Does the veteran appropriately store food and recognize spoiled food so that they do not get sick?

Do financial considerations interfere with the veteran's ability to maintain a healthy diet?

Does the veteran need help or training in other areas to improve independence?

Does the veteran demonstrate appropriate hygiene patterns? Does the veteran remember to take their medication on a regular basis?

Does the veteran dress appropriately?

Is the veteran's disability so severe that they need someone to provide them with daily assistance in getting ready in the morning and/or during the day?

Describe:

Does the veteran can budget their finances?

Does the veteran maintain a checking account?

Does the veteran have a history of balancing their budget and managing their income?

Does the veteran have enough income to meet basic needs?

Is the veteran receiving all appropriate VA and non-VA benefits (SSDI, SSI, VA disability, Worker's Compensation, etc.)?

Is the veteran competent to handle VA funds?

Does the veteran provide support for other family or non-family members?

Does the veteran have support services to help them maintain their budget?

Self-Direction - Ability to organize, structure, and manage activities in daily living. Adequate self-direction requires that the claimant be able to plan, initiate, and monitor behavior with respect to an identified outcome.

Does the veteran have the means to adequately manage their income?

Do you have direct deposit with your paycheck?

How much are the veteran's monthly living expenses?

Is the veteran keeping up with their bills?
Do you have any major outstanding bills?

Do you have over-extended their credit cards?

Do you have any legal issues pending due to financial circumstances?

Are there any outstanding judgments against the veteran?

Veteran understand if they have SSI or SSDI, when they get their payment and how much it will be?

Is the veteran capable of reporting their wages to SSA?

Do you have any current issues or overpayment payment problems from SSA?

Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning?

Do you have an alarm clock?

Do you have a history of over sleeping and missing appointments?

Is the veteran taking any medications causing problems related to waking up, maintaining alertness, or motivation?

List your Medications and doses below or provide a copy of your current list:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-

Are you a morning or evening person?

What time of day the veteran usually wakes up?

How long does it takes you to get ready in the morning?

Interpersonal Skills - Ability to interact in a socially acceptable manner with family, service providers, neighbors, and others encountered in routine interactions in the community.

Do you tend to consume alcohol and/or use illegal substances?

Has the veteran ever experienced issues with addiction or overuse of alcohol?

Are the above currently issues in the veteran's life? If so, does the veteran participate in therapy or a sobriety support program?

Do you have any anger management issues or other patterns of inappropriate interpersonal behavior that interfere with forming or maintaining healthy relationships?

Are there any cultural, religious or extended family considerations?

Do any cultural, religious or extended family that might impose on the Veteran's current living situation? This could include issues with childcare arrangements, brothers, sisters or parents. Are there any issues related to the people named above that could cause issues for the Veteran?

Do you attend cultural or religious events on a regular basis?

Do cultural, religious, or extended family considerations impact your ability to appropriately interact with other individuals or groups?

Productive Activities - Ability to perform activities which contribute to family and/or community.

Do you have adequate time management skills to complete all tasks related to engagement in

an appropriate productive activity?

6.03 Avocational Options

(Change Date August 15, 2013)

During the preliminary IL assessment, the VRC must also examine the impact of the claimant's disability on avocational pursuits. If the preliminary and/or comprehensive IL evaluation indicates that the claimant has limitations in the pursuit of avocational interests, the VRC may address the need in the IILP. Refer to the **M28C Glossary of Terms** for definitions, including "avocational."

Services may be provided in support of an avocational activity that the claimant can no longer perform due to the effects of his or her disability(ies). For example, the claimant may have been active in sports but is no longer able to perform this activity due to physical limitations. In this situation, the VRC may provide resources for community adaptive sports or adaptive equipment to enable the claimant to continue the activity to increase the claimant's community involvement, functional ability, and mobility.

a. Eligibility Criteria

(Change Date August 15, 2013)

The following criteria must be met to provide IL services for pursuing an avocational interest:

- The disability condition(s) limits or prevents participation in the avocational interest.
- The activity must have been previously performed for a significant amount of time or over a 12-month period.
- A medical and/or mental health provider must provide documentation that support continuing or re-engaging in the activity is not currently contraindicated with the claimant's disability condition(s).
- An expert consultation must identify accommodations required to enable continued support of the activity, which must be completed by a qualified person, such as an occupational therapist.
- The pursuit of the avocational interest must improve the claimant's independence in daily living in a measurable and verifiable manner.
- The claimant must have the ability and resources to sustain the activity after the period of rehabilitation services are completed.

The VRC must document this information in the claimant's VR&E record or in an electronic case note.

b. Limitations

1. Number of Avocational Needs

(Change Date August 15, 2013)

The services related to an avocational activity are limited to only one type of activity. If adaptive sports equipment will be provided for one avocational activity, then additional services for other avocational activities must not be provided even if the claimant expresses interest in other activities.

2. Updating or Replacing Existing Equipment

(Change Date August 15, 2013)

The VRC must not update or replace existing equipment that enables the claimant's participation in an avocational activity. For example, providing an updated computer program is prohibited unless if it is required to meet the goals of the IILP.

What are your hobbies or what recreational activities you can physically participate in?

-
-
-
-

How much time do you spend in these activities per day/week/month, and how long have you participated in each hobby, explain in detail how this hobby improves your activities of daily living with your current disability?

Do you interact with others while performing or participating in these activities or hobbies?

Do you or can you physically participate in have regular sports or social events currently?

6.04 Home Modification and Home Adaptation Options

(Change Date October 1, 2018)

It is important to note that there is a difference between "home modifications" and "home adaptations". VR&E no longer has the authority to provide home adaptations. These services are provided in coordination with the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program. However, VR&E may provide home modifications. Home adaptation is defined as a project to adapt a housing unit including any component of construction for which any of the following requirements apply and/or are needed for completion to ensure that the housing unit is suitable or fit for the residential living needs of an eligible claimant:

- A technical drawing
- A permit, if required by local or State laws or building codes
- The use of a licensed contractor to complete the home adaptation
- A required compliance inspection under current SAH policy.

Note: The SAH agent assigned to the home adaptation must certify if a compliance inspection is required.

If the identified IL need does not meet the definition of a home adaptation, then it is considered a home modification and services may be provided to meet the need using the government purchase card (GPC), local contracts, and/or the acquisition process.

Refer to **M28C.V.B.4** for additional guidance on the use of the GPC and **M28C.V.A.3** for the purchase of supplies and equipment. In these instances, all current cost approval limits will remain in effect, as provided in **M28C.V.B.1** and **M28C.IV.C.2**.

a. Housing Grants for Claimants with Disabilities

VA administers five grant programs to assist Service members and Veterans with disabilities in obtaining necessary home modifications.

Future Goals – what are you the hopes or envisions for your life in the short and/or long term?

Please express what is your highest priority now?

Is employment in your list of priorities?
Is it a goal of yours to live more independently?

What does "living more independently" specifically mean to you in your own words?

The need for any supplies or equipment being considered to address an independent living need must be substantiated by results of both the preliminary and comprehensive independent living assessments.

Specify potential goals and how those may be achieved, including resources needed and time frames to improve your Independence Living goals?

-
-
-
-
-

-
-

Summary:

Independent Living Issues that could jeopardize or be barriers to a potential future employment goal?

Independent Living Strengths that would complement potential employment?

Veteran Name: Date:

Observations/IL Needs/Potential Resources:

Contract, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Department of Veterans Affairs, VR&E Division

Veteran Name: Date:

Department of Veterans Affairs

IL NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING MATRIX

ASSESSMENT	NEEDS	SERVICE OPTIONS	MEASURES	OUTCOMES

IL Issues:

PROVISIONS FOR SUSTAINING INFLUENCE:

VA FORM 28-0787
JAN 2005