

# GAO Highlights

Highlights of [GAO-22-105720](#), a statement for the record to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives

## Why GAO Did This Study

The federal government helps veterans pursue education and employment skills in order to succeed in the civilian workforce. Congress instructed VA to develop a pilot program to provide tuition and other financial support to eligible veterans who enroll in high-technology education programs through eligible training providers. In response, VA created VET TEC, which is authorized for 5 years from April 2019, when the first contract was issued.

In addition, Congress included a provision for GAO to assess certain aspects of VET TEC. In response, GAO began work to assess VET TEC.

This statement is based on preliminary observations from GAO's ongoing review and focuses on VA's efforts to design and pilot VET TEC. To develop these preliminary findings, GAO reviewed relevant VA documents and interviewed VA officials knowledgeable about the VET TEC pilot, as well as two VET TEC training providers. In addition, VA's efforts were compared to GAO's leading practices for effective pilot design.

View [GAO-22-105720](#). For more information, contact Dawn Locke at (202) 512-7215 or [locked@gao.gov](mailto:locked@gao.gov).

February 2, 2022

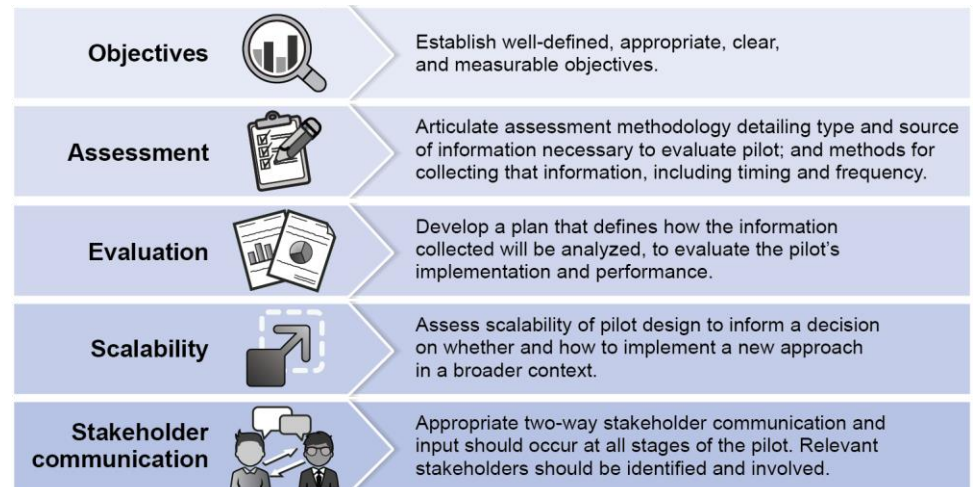
## VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

### Preliminary Observations on VA's Technology Education Pilot Program

## What GAO Found

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is conducting a pilot program, called Veterans Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC), that provides tuition and housing assistance to eligible veterans who enroll in a training program offered by a VA-approved provider. Although VET TEC started in April 2019, GAO's preliminary observations indicate that VA has not yet implemented most leading practices for effective pilot program design with the exception of communicating with stakeholders (see figure).

Figure: Leading Practices for Effective Pilot Design



Source: GAO. | GAO-22-105720

Specifically, VA does not have documented, measurable objectives for the program. As such, VA cannot yet determine an assessment methodology or evaluation plan to measure performance of the pilot. While VA officials said that they plan to formally evaluate VET TEC towards the end of the pilot, they did not provide specific information about what the evaluation will entail. In addition, VA is not well positioned to assess the scalability of the program because VA officials may not have a complete picture of veteran or training provider demand for VET TEC.

GAO's preliminary observations found that VA has taken steps to implement one leading practice by communicating with stakeholders, including training providers, veterans, and employers. In ongoing work, GAO plans to further examine VA's efforts to design and implement the VET TEC pilot in accordance with leading practices and will make recommendations for improvement, as appropriate.