



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, March 8, 2024

## February Veteran Directed Care Educational Webinar Recap

Thank you to those who joined the February Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Educational Webinar on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. We had a record of 444 participants! During the webinar, participants heard updates from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Additionally, the webinar featured new and updated resources to support program policy and procedure implementation. For those who were unable to join, the recording is now available for viewing [here](#) and attached are slides from the webinar.

## Paid Leave Guidance

Many states and localities are implementing paid sick, accrued time off (i.e., general leave), and family and medical leave laws. With each region implementing laws with different requirements and restrictions, Veterans as employers may be obligated to pay mandatory leave for their employees, and the impact on Veteran authorized budgets for VDC may vary. As of January 1, 2024, the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) allows Aging and Disability Network Agencies (ADNA) to submit authorized budget amendment notifications to the VDC Program Coordinator at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) to increase a Veteran's authorized budget to address a cost beyond control due to a government mandate related to the payment of mandatory paid leave. For additional information, please see the attached Paid Leave Guidance.

## Veteran Handbook

The VDC Federal Technical Assistance team is thrilled to release the VDC Veteran Handbook for Veterans who are referred to and enrolled in the VDC program. The Veteran Handbook is designed to help Veterans understand and navigate the program as enrollees and consists of five handouts:

1. What is Veteran Directed Care?
2. Making it Happen: Arranging for Services, Supports, and Goods
3. Developing my Spending Plan
4. Becoming an Employer
5. Being an Employer

The handbook is intended to support Veterans in understanding the VDC program and their role as an employer and is available for VDC providers to reference or incorporate use of in their local programs. The five sections of the Veteran Handbook can be found attached to this newsletter.

## VDC Monthly Reporting Tool Update

In response to provider feedback and in order to ease data reporting during the expansion of the VDC program, the VDC Technical Assistance Team is happy to introduce a revised [Monthly Reporting Tool](#), which VDC program providers designated as Hubs or Sole Proprietors are encouraged to complete at the end of each month. We ask that all VDC providers please continue to report your program's data to the VDC Monthly Reporting Tool at this new link to help us accurately capture the VDC program's reach.

## Technical Assistance

Have a question? Need guidance? Want to share good news about your VDC program? Reach out to the VDC Federal Technical Assistance Team at [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!

## VDC Email Distribution List

If you or other VDC program staff are not already on the VDC email distribution list, [please enter your information using this link](#) to make sure you don't miss out on important news!