



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, August 11, 2023

## **RAND Corporation: *Home and Community-Based Services – Veterans’ Issues in Focus***

In July 2023, RAND Corporation published the article, [\*Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\), Veterans’ Issues in Focus\*](#), which explores the demand for and availability of programs offering Veterans HCBS. The article references the recent legislative action to expand the Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program to all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC), offering all eligible Veterans the option to self-direct their services and supports.

## **Veteran Budget – Staying on Track**

It is the responsibility of the Veteran, with support from the VDC provider, to develop a VDC spending plan that is below the authorized amount, track and monitor VDC spending, and make any necessary changes to the VDC spending plan to ensure spending does not exceed the authorized budget. The Veteran’s authorized budget is designed to meet the Veteran’s needs for the entire period of the authorization, therefore, the VDC provider must support the Veteran to develop a spending plan that avoids overspending.

In the event that overspending occurs, the remediation training and termination policy aims to support Veterans who consistently spend over their average monthly budget and are at risk of exceeding their authorized budget prior to the end of their authorization period. The VDC provider is responsible for applying the policy by developing a plan with the Veteran to align spending with the average monthly amount and continue to review spending with the Veteran monthly. **The VDC provider must alert the VAMC VDC coordinator of continuous Veteran overspending.** If overspending continues to occur despite remediation training, the VAMC VDC coordinator may opt to work with the Veteran to determine if a different Veterans Health Administration (VHA) program will better meet their needs. If a Veteran’s spending exceeds authorized amount, the VDC provider may receive a bill of collection, as VAMCs are not allowed to reimburse for any VDC spending that exceeds the Veteran’s budget.

## **VDC Provider Point of Contact**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) VDC technical assistance team keeps track of the main point of contact at VDC providers (Aging and Disability Network Agencies (ADNA)) for VDC related inquiries and requests. It is essential that the ACL VDC technical assistance team has up-to-date contacts for VDC programs to relay important information or ask time sensitive questions. Please email [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov) if you have any changes to the main point of contact for the VDC program at your agency. Please also reach out if you are unsure if the correct point of contact is documented in ACL’s records.

## **VDC Monthly Reporting Tool Reminder**

This is a friendly reminder to please report Veteran census for your VDC program on a monthly basis using the [VDC Monthly Reporting Tool](#). The VDC Monthly Reporting Tool is a portal for VDC providers to enter their Veteran census data, ensuring an opportunity to accurately account for availability and growth of the program. We ask that all VDC providers please continue to report your program's data to the VDC Monthly Reporting Tool 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!