



Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, January 10, 2025

VDC Annual Survey

Each year, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) collects information from Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Hubs and Sole Proprietors through the [VDC Annual Survey](#). The VDC Annual Survey asks about VDC providers' experiences and current engagement with the VDC program, and will help us to identify best practices, technical assistance opportunities, and themes across VDC programs. If you are a Hub or Sole Proprietor, please submit your responses to the VDC Annual Survey no later than **Wednesday, January 15**. Your responses will help inform our collective knowledge of the VDC program and technical assistance activities for the next 12 months. Your successes will also be amplified and shared across VDC providers and with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and ACL.

Celebrating Veteran Success Stories

We thank you for your support of our Veterans and of the VDC program. Below are some success stories from Ozark Independent Living and the Center for Independence, showcasing how VDC Options Counselors go above and beyond for the Veterans they serve!

Ozark Independent Living:

Recently, one of the Veterans in our VDC program passed away. His wife knew how much it would mean to him to be laid to rest in Navy Dress Whites and shared that with his Options Counselor. After contacting the Marine Corps Relief Society, they gladly donated the Navy Dress Whites for a Chief Petty Officer along with a hat, shoes, belt and pins! The Options Counselor traveled to Tennessee to pick this up for her Veteran's family. So thankful to her for going the extra mile for the dignity of this amazing Veteran! GO VDC!

Center for Independence:

A Veteran expressed his frustrations and pain having to sleep on a chair in his living room because the bed he owned was not adjustable and too painful and unsafe for him to be getting in and out of. His sleep was increasingly disturbed by the pain of sleeping upright and the VA [Veterans Affairs] told him he was ineligible for them to pay for a hospital bed as his needs didn't qualify. The Veteran, his caregiver, and I brainstormed what equipment might be helpful. I advocated for the Veteran to purchase a sit-to-stand recliner with his VDC budget and was approved. The Veteran now comfortably reclines to flat laying position to sleep, has been experiencing less pain, and is able to get to a standing position with help from the chair to his walker safely.

To submit your own success stories with the VDC program or the Veterans you serve, please use the form [linked here](#).

Reminders

ACL's No Wrong Door (NWD) Website VDC Page: The VDC page on the NWD website has a number of helpful resources for VDC providers. If you do not find a resource, please email veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov.

VDC Monthly Reporting Tool: Please continue to report your program's data to the [VDC Monthly Reporting Tool](#) at the end of each month to help us accurately capture the VDC program's reach. If you do not see your VDC provider or VAMC listed on the tool, please email veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov with the correct listing information.

Veteran Success Stories: Please use the [Veteran Success Story form](#) to share any VDC success stories, including positive Veteran stories from their VDC enrollment experience, promising practices related to providing VDC as a VDC provider, or stories of success that you've heard from the Veterans you serve. We look forward to reviewing them and featuring them in our newsletters!

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. 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 the [VDC Email Distribution List form](#) to make sure you don't miss out on important news!