September VDC Office Hour

September 18, 2024

Victoria Wright, Program Officer for Veteran Directed Care and Inclusive Transportation Programs

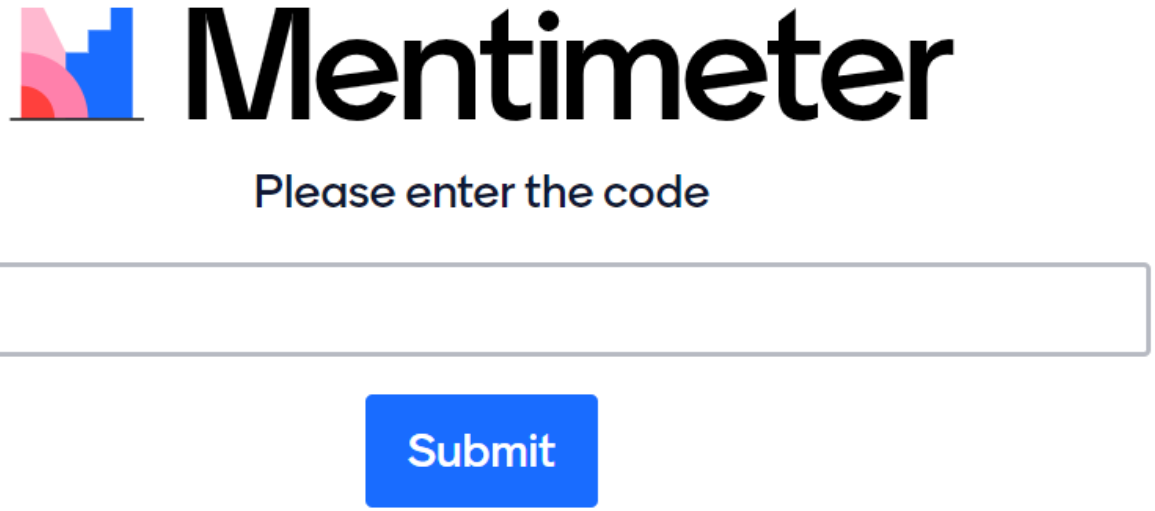
Agenda

- Welcome and Announcements from the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Announcements from the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA)
- Overview of the FY2025 VDC Budget Calculator
- Local VDC Program Evaluation
- Open Question and Answer (Q&A)
- Closing

Menti Poll – Icebreaker

Go to **www.menti.com** and enter code: **9877 2342**

Did you join us for the August VDC Office Hour?



Announcements from VHA Regarding VDC

Daniel Schoeps,
Director, VA Purchased Long-Term Services and Supports

FY2025 VDC Budget Calculator

FY2025 VDC Budget Calculator

Table 1. Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Case Mix Budget, Administrative Fee, and Assessment Fee Calculator Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Effective for new referrals from 1 October 2024 through 30 September 2025 These rates do not apply in Washington State, a separate calculator will be developed for Washington State.	
State	California
County or City	LOS ANGELES
Case Mix Level	D
Start Date of Standard Episode of Care (SEOC) (MM/DD/YYYY)	10/1/2024
End Date of SEOC (MM/DD/YYYY)	9/30/2025
Number of Months in SEOC	12
Prorated First Month Veteran Budget	$3,615
Average Monthly Veteran Budget	$3,615
Monthly Administrative Fee	$1,020
Average Monthly VA Obligation	$4,635
Total Veteran Budget for SEOC	$43,380
Full Assessment Fee	$1,437
Partial Assessment Fee	$719
Total VA Obligation for SEOC (if includes Full Assessment Fee)	$57,057
Total VA Obligation for SEOC (if DOES NOT include Full Assessment Fee)	$55,620

FY2025 VDC Budget Calculator: Impact

Locality – Denver County, CO	FY24 Case Mix Rates	FY25 Case Mix Rates	Diff (% Change)
Wage Index*	0.9893	0.9759	0.0134 (-1.4%)
Monthly Administrative Fee	$782	$814	$32 (4.1%)
Average Monthly Veteran Budget (Case Mix ‘D’)	$2,774	$2,885	$111 (4.0%)
Average Monthly VA Obligation	$3,556	$3,699	$143 (4.0%)
Total Veteran Budget for SEOC**	$33,371	$34,620	$1,249 (3.7%)

FY2025 VDC Budget Calculator: Next Steps for VDC Providers

- Review FY2025 Case Mix Rate Calculator
- **VAMCs will use the FY2025 Case Mix Rates for new and updated VDC authorizations beginning on October 1, 2025**
- VDC providers should review new VDC authorizations to verify changes in case mix rates have been applied
- Submit updated Veteran spending plans to your partnering VAMC for approval

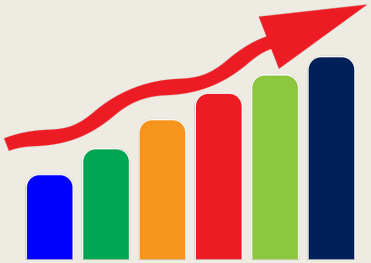
Local VDC Program Evaluation

Veteran Directed Care:

Evaluating Implementation Processes and Outcomes

VIP Project Overview

INTRODUCTION



The # of nursing home eligible Veterans is expected to double to four million by 2039 compared to 2019.

Over 90% of Veterans prefer to age in their own homes.

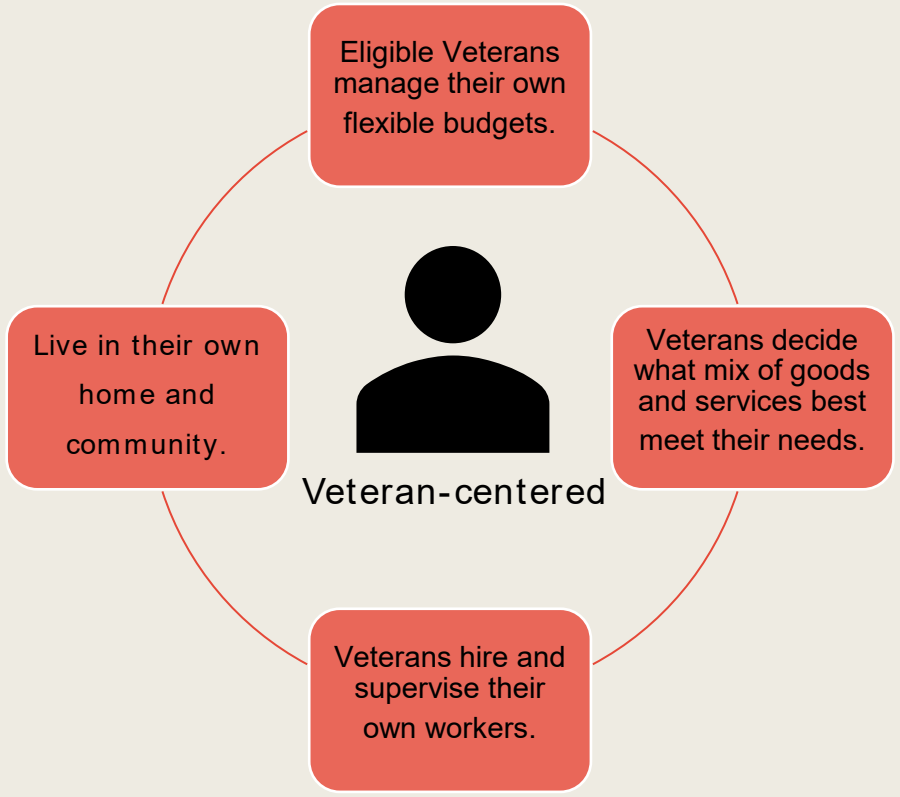
Long-Term Institutional Care (LTIC) is very costly.

Therefore, the VA is striving to provide the highest level of care in the least restrictive settings to Veterans who are at risk for LTIC through programs like **Veteran Directed Care (VDC).**

The VDC Program:

an initiative to care for Veterans who are nursing home eligible but prefer to receive care in their home.

The VDC program provides Veterans with opportunities to self-direct their LTSS and continue living independently at home through receipt of their own flexible budgets.



VDC Accelerated Expansion:

Two fiscal years of funding for 28 VAMCs starting VDC in FY22 and FY23 to cover the following:

- One Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) to serve as the VDC Program Manager.
- Enrollment of 20-25 Veterans in VDC

Accelerated expansion:

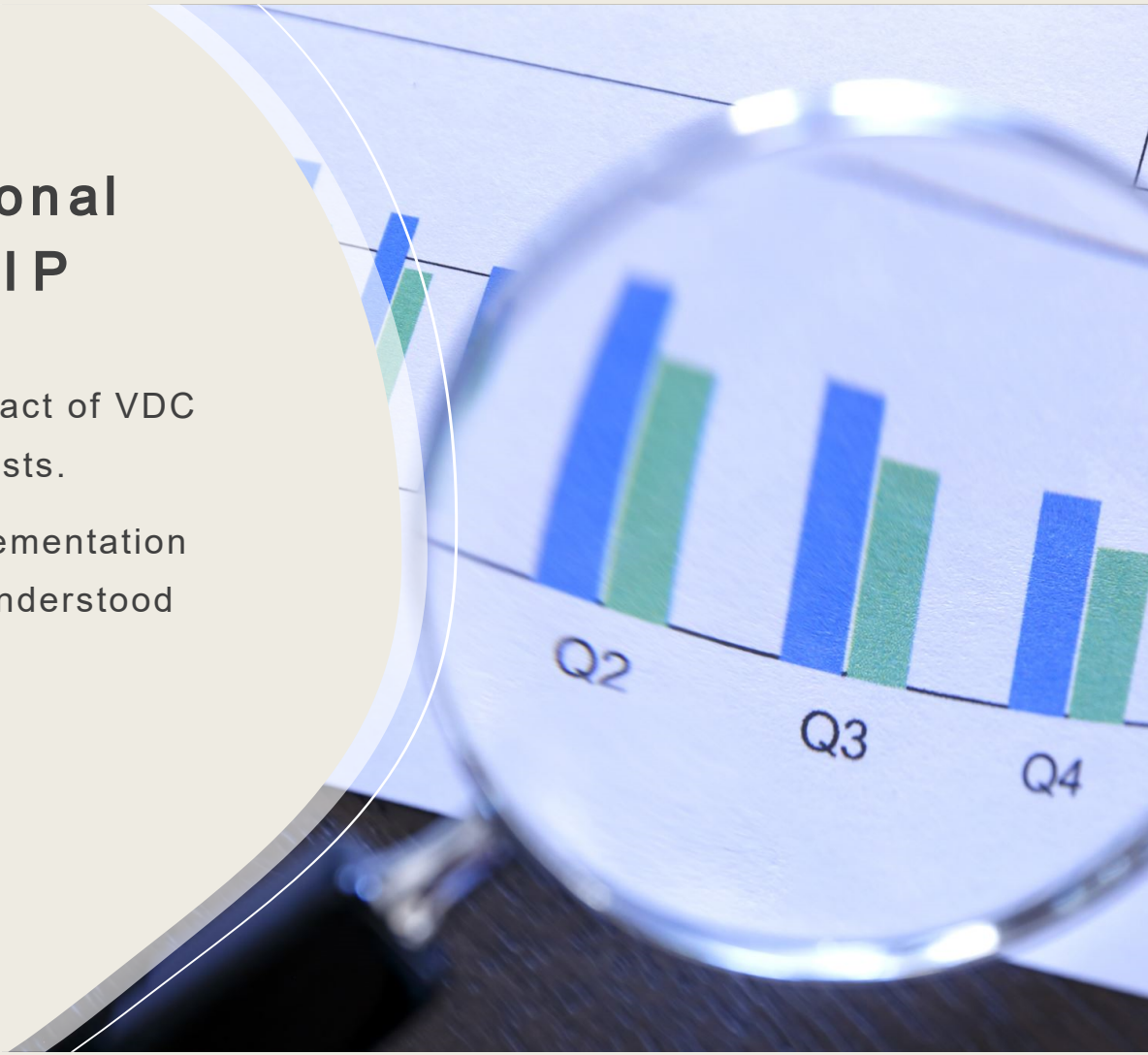
- Starting on July 1, 2023, 45 VAMCs assigned to a 12-week sprint in one of five quarters
- VAMCs required to engage in an education and training program

Expectations:

- Enroll first Veteran in VDC within first year of identified cohort of Veterans the VAMC is targeting
- Grow enrollment

Rationale for National VDC Evaluation: VIP

- Insufficient evidence of impact of VDC on patient outcomes and costs.
- Factors affecting VDC implementation and expansion are poorly understood



VIP Team

PIs & Co-Is	Project Management	Implementation Team	Qualitative Team	Outcomes Team	Survey Team
Stuti Dang	Sandra Garcia	Jennifer Sullivan	Leah Haverhals	Orna Intrator	Erin Bouldin
Leah Haverhals	Diana Ruiz	Stuti Dang	Wendy Hathaway	Stuti Dang	Sandra Garcia-Davis
Orna Intrator	Barbara McKenzie	Leah Haverhals	Pranjal Tyagi	Derek Darcy	Pranjal Tyagi
Erin Bouldin	Krysttel Stryczek	Wendy Hathaway	Krysttel Stryczek	Peter Veazie	Stuti Dang

Strategic Advisory Group

- VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC)
- Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Financial Management Services Provider (FMS)
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- State Medicaid
- Applied Self-Direction
- National Center for Person-Centered Care
- I Am ALS
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Veteran & Caregiver

VIP Specific Aims

Aim 1

Evaluate the effectiveness of VDC using administrative VA data by comparing VDC patients to similar Veterans living in the community and, for appropriate outcomes, to Veterans living in nursing homes.

Aim 2

Describe the state of the VDC implementation in the accelerated rollout.

Aim 3

Describe individual, organizational and policy-level contextual factors, facilitators and barriers impacting the reach of existing VDC programs.

Aim 4 (optional)

Engage key, multi-level GEC stakeholders to use information from Aims 1-3 for rapid development and dissemination of actionable deliverables.

Actionable Deliverables

Data on effectiveness and cost

Determinants of successful VDC implementation and expansion

Recommendations for metrics to track VDC program performance

Consensus statement on effective practices in VDC programs

New Sites + ADNAs
Survey Plan And Timeline

1/1/24-6/30/24

FY 24 Q2-Q3

Planning Stage

- Design VA staff and ADNA surveys
- Obtain OAC, Union and OMB approvals
- Obtain POC information from GEC
- Program surveys in Qualtrics
- Recruitment

7/1/24-9/30/24

FY 24 Q4

Wave 1

- Targets sites started in FY 22-FY 23 Q3 + their ADNAs
- N = 28-30 VAMCs
- N=51 ADNAs
- Only new sites with least 12 months post-implementation
- Survey sent via an email link to POCs for each site and ADNAs

4/1/25-6/30/25

FY 25 Q3

Wave 2

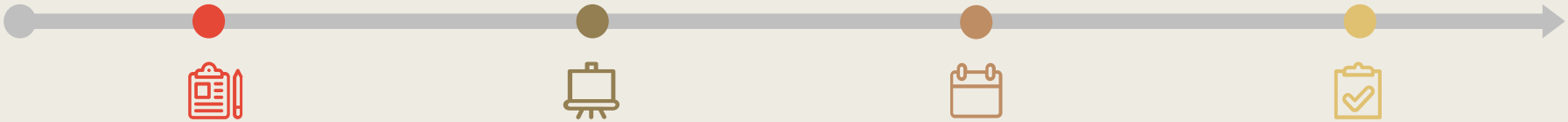
- Targets Sprint sites started FY 23 Q4 – FY 24 Q2 + their ADNAs
- N sites = 29
- These sites will now have reached at least 12 months
- Survey sent via an email link to POCs for each site and ADNAs

10/1/25-12/31/25

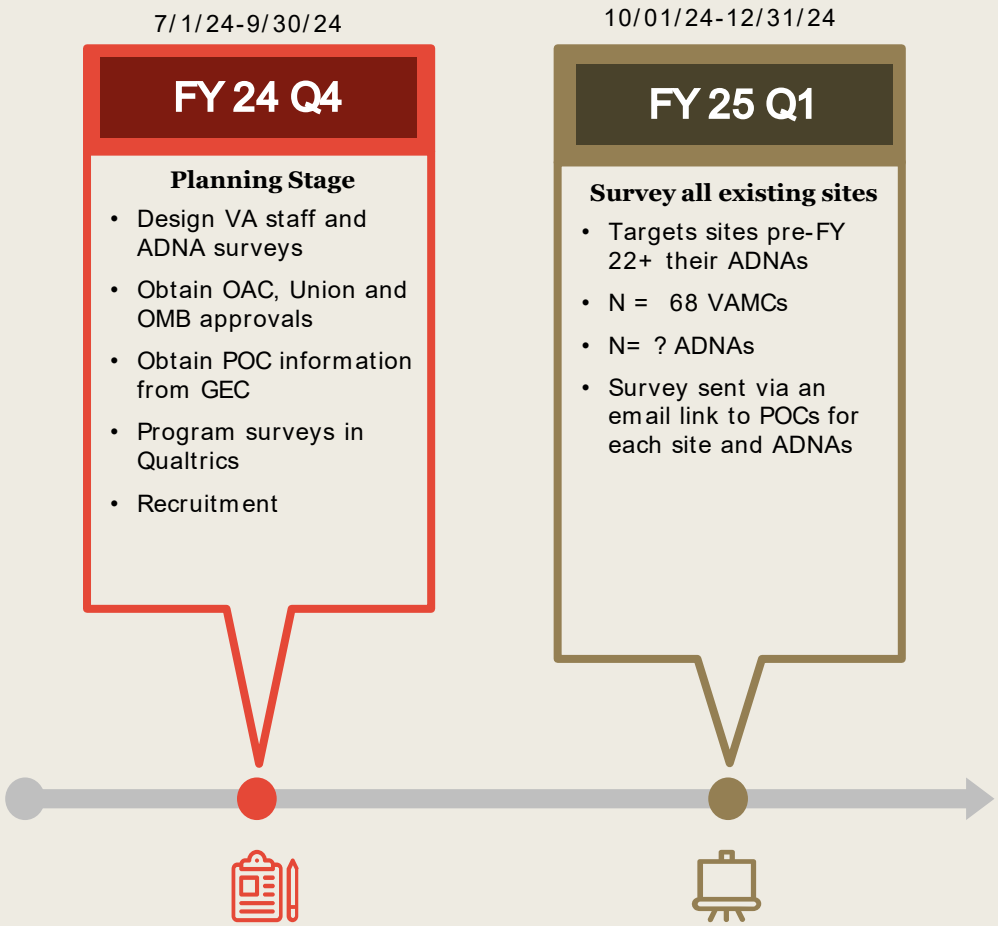
FY26 Q1

Wave 3

- Targets Sprint sites started FY 24 Q3 – FY 24 Q4 + their ADNAs
- N sites =22
- These sites will now have reached at least 12 months
- Survey sent via an email link to POCs for each site and ADNAs



Existing Sites + ADNAs Survey Plan And Timeline



VIP PROJECT :

Veteran Directed Care Evaluating **I**mplementation **P**rocesses and Outcomes (**VIP** Project)

Information Sheet

Dr. Stuti Dang and her team are conducting an evaluation of the Veteran Directed Care program, in collaboration with The VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care.

To better understand the VDC implementation experiences across sites, the VIP Project team will conduct the following activities:

- Electronic surveys of VA and ADNA staff working with the VDC program
  - Questions ask about experiences with the program and the successes and challenges of implementing VDC.
  - Sent via email and will take 20 minutes to complete.
  - Surveys will be sent out to all sites in phases over the next 18 months.

- Virtual and/or in-person interviews of VA and ADNA staff
  - With *select* sites to better understand VDC implementation efforts.

These activities are only intended to inform quality improvement efforts and are **not** part of any performance measure.

We thank you in advance for your participation in the VIP Project!

The information collected will be kept confidential and individual responses will be aggregated across sites and de-identified prior to reporting.

Any questions may be directed to the VIP Project manager
Sandra Garcia-Davis at Sandra.Garcia9@va.gov

Version 1.
07/08/2024

Questions? Comments?

Closing

- **Post-event survey:** Please share your feedback through the post-event survey.
- **ACL Technical Assistance (TA)-Community**: Continue the conversation using the discussion board located in the VDC Community on the ACL TA Community website. Please email veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov for access.
- **VDC Monthly Reporting Tool Data**: Report your Veteran census data every month with the VDC monthly reporting tool
- **Technical Assistance**: Please email the VDC Technical Assistance Team with any questions: veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov