



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, December 13, 2024

## Supporting Veterans During the Holidays

We would like to hear some of your success stories in supporting Veterans during the holiday season, or through the VDC program more generally. Please use the form [linked here](#) to submit your story.

The holiday season is a time of celebration but may also be a stressful and lonely time for many people, including Veterans. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed resources that can be shared with Veterans to support them through [holiday stress](#) and [loneliness](#). Each of these resources provides practices or behaviors which Veterans can use to navigate any stress, loneliness, or crises they may experience this holiday season. The VA also makes confidential support available via the Veterans Crisis Line, which can be reached by dialing 988 then pressing 1, navigating to [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or by texting 838255.

Additionally, the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) created a [Holiday Toolkit](#) to support those who may experience difficult emotions, thoughts, or behaviors during the holiday season. The Toolkit includes infographics and language that providers may use to spread awareness of mental health and substance use recovery supports, covering a range of topics from holiday stress coping tips to methods for combatting seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

## VDC Annual Survey

Each year, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) collects information from 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 success will also be amplified and shared across VDC providers and with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and ACL.

## VDC Monthly Reporting Tool Highlights

Thank you to those who have been reporting to ACL's [VDC Monthly Reporting Tool](#), and congratulations to the Dayle McIntosh Center and the Nebraska Western Iowa VA Medical Center, who reported serving Veterans for the first time! 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 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](mailto:VeteranDirected@acl.hhs.gov) with the correct listing information.

### Reminders

**ACL's No Wrong Door (NWD) Website VDC Page:** ACL is currently experiencing delays in uploading new resources to the NWD website's VDC page. If you do not find a resource you are looking for on the page, please email [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov) for resource requests.

**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!