



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, December 9, 2022

## Happy Holidays!

The VDC Federal Technical Assistance Team wishes you, your family, friends, and colleagues Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! To help support Veterans and their caregivers this holiday season, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) and partnering VA offices is offering the following event:

- [Managing the Holidays: Finding Comfort in the Gifts of the Season](#)
  - Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7 p.m. ET
  - Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 3 p.m. ET

Caregivers must register to join the Caregiver Support Line (CSL) monthly education call. To register, call 1-855-260-3274. Caregivers unable to attend the calls can access presentations on the [CSL's](#) webpage.

## Community Care Hubs

On November 29, the [Improving Health and Well-Being Through Community Care Hubs](#) was published in Health Affairs. The article explores opportunities that hubs provide to meet the needs of individuals in their residing communities. We look forward to continued understanding of how the hubs may be useful to the VA in serving Veterans and their caregivers.

## Veteran Directed Care Annual Survey

Each year, 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, TA opportunities, and themes across VDC programs. If you are a Hub or Sole Proprietor, please [submit](#) your responses by **Friday, December 30**. Your responses will help inform our collective knowledge of the current status of the VDC program and technical assistance activities for the next 12 months. Trends across programs will be provided to VDC programs that respond to the survey. Your success will also be amplified and shared across VDC providers and with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and ACL.

## Veteran Spotlight – Extended Interview

The November newsletter highlighted an interview with two Veterans and their caregivers' describing experiences with the VDC program at Mat-Su Aging and Disability Resource Center in Alaska Veterans Health Administration (VHA). An extended version of the interview was posted on the [VDC Community](#) and is also attached to the December newsletter. [The VDC Community](#) is ACL's collaboration platform where VDC providers can receive updates on upcoming events, share and access peer-created resources, and engage in discussions with other VDC providers. For your reference, attached is a resource that provides a high-level overview of the different features and functions of the VDC Community. Sign up [here](#) to request access. Please contact us at [VeteranDirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:VeteranDirected@acl.hhs.gov) if you had any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you on the VDC Community!

## 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. If you have already reported Veteran census for your VDC program using the VDC Monthly Reporting Tool for **November 2022** and/or previous months, we would like to thank you for submitting your program's data. We look forward each month to continued program growth!

## 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 email [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov) to make sure you don't miss out on important news!