



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, December 8, 2023

## Veterans Day Spotlight – Extended Interview

The November newsletter highlighted an interview with AIM Independent Living Center (AIM) to understand how their rapid expansion as a Veteran Directed Care (VDC) provider based in New York has impacted Veterans in their community. A partner of the VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System, AIM received their first Veteran referral in January 2023 and has since expanded to serve 46 Veterans as of this November. To read more about their successful expansion, please visit the [VDC Community](#) for an extended interview summary or see the document attached to this newsletter. Thank you to AIM and the VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System for their continued dedication to the VDC program and Veterans!

## Annual VDC 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 will be sent to providers next week through the VDC Mailbox at [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov), and it will ask about VDC providers' experiences and current engagement with the VDC program to help us to identify best practices, technical assistance (TA) opportunities, and themes across VDC programs. If you are a Hub or Sole Proprietor, please watch out for the survey, as we will ask you to submit your responses no later than **Tuesday, January 16**. Your responses will help inform our collective knowledge of the VDC program and TA activities for the next 12 months. Thank you in advance for your participation!

## Paid Leave Guidance

Many states and localities are implementing paid sick, accrued time off (i.e., general leave) and family and medical leave laws. With each region implementing laws with different requirements and restrictions, the impact on Veteran-employers' authorized budgets for VDC also can vary. VA is developing procedures for Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) and Aging and Disability Network Agencies (ADNA) to follow in cases where paid leave laws will apply to Veterans as employers. This will include an amendment request process that allows the VAMC to amend and increase a Veteran's authorized budget to address a cost beyond control due to a government mandate related to paid leave.

## 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!