



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, July 14, 2023

## Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

On July 26, 1990, the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) became law, affirming the dignity of all people regardless of disability status. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and ensures that individuals with disabilities have the same opportunities to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local government programs. Included in the ADA are prohibitions against discrimination by state and local governments, standards for privately owned businesses and commercial facilities, and protections against discrimination in the workplace. The law further ensures equal access to health care, social services, transportation, and telecommunications. In the 33 years since it became law, the ADA has enhanced the independence, inclusion, and equality of opportunity for Americans with disabilities. But there is still a long way to go, and there is more each of us can do to strengthen and expand the infrastructure of the ADA. For additional information on the ADA, including guidance, training, and strategies to support the ADA's mission, please visit the [ADA National Network](#) funded by ACL's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.

## Veteran Visit Expectations

To ensure Veterans' needs are being met, VDC providers are expected to establish procedures for monthly telephone contact and quarterly in-person visits. **Monthly visits** should cover operational updates and ensure the VDC program is running smoothly. Example discussion topics include the Veteran's spending plan and whether it is meeting their needs, additional services and supports that may help the Veteran, and the status of hired workers – including any signs of neglect or abuse of the Veteran and/or potential caregiver burnout. **Quarterly, in-person visits** should attempt to understand the Veteran's overall health and well-being. Example discussion topics include health status changes in the Veteran, the Veteran's overall experience in VDC, and identification of unmet needs.

## Leap Year Case Mix

The current Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Case Mix Rate Calculator accounts for an additional day due to the leap year for Veteran authorized budgets that include the month of February 2024 since 2024 is a leap year (i.e., February has 29 days rather than 28). Similarly, the upcoming FY 2024 Case Mix Rate Calculator will automatically calculate 366 days for Veteran authorized budgets that include the month of February 2024. The FY 2024 Case Mix Rate Calculator will be released in August 2023.

## 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. In April 2023, 16 VDC providers reported an increase in their Veteran census counts. Among them is Disability Action Center Northwest, a partner of Spokane VA Medical Center, who reported an increase in census by 33 Veterans! Special shoutout to Disability Action Center Northwest for reporting this program growth. 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!