



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Veteran-Directed Home & Community Based Services Program

BACKGROUND:

The Veteran-Directed Home & Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) program was established in 2009 to meet the growing demand home care services for veterans want to live at home rather than a nursing home. The Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Health and Human Services work together under this consumer-directed program so veterans have more control, options, and access over the supportive services they receive.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:

In general, VD-HCBS is for veterans who are at-risk of nursing home placement when their family caregiver(s) need help, have home care needs that exceed the average number of hours generally available at a VA Medical Center (VAMC), or have difficulty using traditional home care agency to that allow them to safely reside at home.

HOW IT WORKS:

Because of its participant-directed design, veterans have decision-making authority over certain services and take direct responsibility managing the services they need—but they are not alone. All veterans in VD-HCBS are supported by the VD-HCBS VA Program Coordinator, an Options Counselor from an Aging and Disability Network agency, and a Financial Management Service.

The VA Program Coordinator establishes the veteran's eligibility for the program and provides an orientation of the program to the veteran, caregiver and/or family. Once enrolled, the VAMC authorizes a monthly flexible spending budget based on the veteran's assessed needs. For example, the flexible budget allows veterans in this program to hire family and friends as caregivers to provide the personal care services they need.

The local Aging and Disability Network agency then works with the veteran to develop a personalized service plan, to find, choose, and training workers, and acquiring needed goods and services that allows the veteran to live safely and independently in their home. The financial management service helps veterans prepare their workers' paychecks, tax returns, and other payroll forms, and pay for those items consistent with the service plan.

The VA Program Coordinator oversees quality, veterans' satisfaction and service delivery. For example, the Coordinator can help identify other VA benefits that can be used to help maximize the veteran's flexible budget to purchase certain items that directly affect their ability to continue to live independently (touch lamps, chair lifts, etc.).

HOW TO APPLY:

If available at your local VAMC, contact the VD-HCBS VA Coordinator or local Aging and Disability Network agency.

PROGRAM AVAILABILITY:

Since the program's inception, approximately 2,200 veterans have enrolled in the VD-HCBS program. About 1,000 veterans are currently participating in the program, which is only available in 49 VA Medical Centers across 28 states.

OUR GOAL:

To make this program available nationwide, DAV members are encouraged to contact their local VAMC and request VD-HCBS be established.