



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



DIVISION FOR THE AGING

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

October 27, 2015

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ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

1610 Forest Avenue • Suite 100 • Henrico, VA 23229

Office 804.662.9333 • Toll free 800.552.3402 • TTY users dial 711 • Fax 804.662.9354



UPDATES

October 26, 2015

President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities 2015 Report to the President

Today, the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) published its 2015 Report to the President titled *Leveling the Playing Field: Improving Technology Access and Design for People with Intellectual Disabilities*. The report describes the critical and increasing role of technology in enabling individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) to have greater control over their own lives and to experience the full benefits of citizenship.

The primary goals of the report's recommendations are:

- To make technology more usable, or cognitively accessible, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through increased federal research, and by incentivizing product developers in the tech industry to create technology that expands the independence and participation of people with ID in everyday living situations
- To strengthen federal policies to ensure that people with ID have equal access to everyday technology
- To increase the availability, quality and affordability of cognitive support technologies through policies, practices, development, and research.

The report contains federal policy recommendations, with immediate priority given to the focus areas of Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary Education; Community Living; Employment and Economic Well-Being; and Health and Wellness.



PCPID serves in an advisory capacity to the President of the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on matters related to individuals with ID. The committee includes representatives from several federal agencies and 18 private citizens, who work to promote policies and initiatives that support independence and lifelong inclusion of people with ID in their communities.

[Click here](#) to access the full report, which is also available on the [PCPID webpage](#) as well as PCPID Chairwoman Julie Petty's [letter](#) to President Barack Obama.

PCPID would like to thank Benetech® and Bookshare® for making this report available in accessible formats for individuals with print disabilities.

Annual Security Training Reminder for PeerPlace and OmbudsManager

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations

*The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) requires **all** users of PeerPlace and Harmony OmbudsManager to complete and certify annual refresher security awareness training.*

DARS provides a basic training course that meets this requirement. The course is titled:

End User Cyber Security Awareness Training. This training along with the required "Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement Form" and a link to the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) "IT Information Security Standard (SEC501-xx)" that each agency is required to meet the requirements of can be accessed on the VDA website at: <http://www.vda.virginia.gov/infosystemaccess.asp>.

The agency's Information Security Officer designated by the Executive Director is responsible to ensure each individual completes the annual training by November 30, 2015. Individuals hired within the year need to complete the training only once. Each agency is required to maintain records of the training, including the individual's name and the training date. In the event an individual does not complete the required training, the agency is required to suspend, (or request suspension for OmbudsManager) that user's access to the system within thirty (30) days.

Access to the system may be regained once the individual has met the requirements.

Only the annual refresher security awareness training must be repeated each year. The Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement Form only needs to be completed one time and kept on file. For OmbudsManager users, the OmbudsManager Access and Change Request



form will need to be completed in its entirety annually and returned to Gail Thompson at Gail.Thompson@dars.virginia.gov, telephone: (804) 726-6617; Fax: 804-662-9140

If you have any questions about the PeerPlace System please contact the No Wrong Door Help Desk at nwdhelp@dars.virginia.gov or call (804) 662-9559. If you have questions about the Harmony OmbudsManager please contact Gail Thompson at Gail.Thompson@dars.virginia.gov or call (804) 726-6617.

Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Programs, Division for the Aging

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Frequently Asked Questions
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What is the Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program?

The *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program* provides reimbursement to Primary Family Caregivers for the cost of temporary, short-term respite care provided to individuals of any age with a disability or chronic condition (children and adults, including elderly persons). The *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program* is funded through a federal grant awarded to the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging -- Administration for Community Living.

Individuals eligible to apply for voucher funding through the *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program* include Virginia caregivers of children or adults who reside in the same household as the Care Recipient. Voucher funding is limited to a total of \$400 per family. Voucher funding will continue until July 31, 2016 or when funds are expended. Funds may not be used to reimburse household expenses or daycare (to go to work or other daycare). Due to limited funds, not all eligible applications will be approved. Please continue to read below for frequently asked questions about the *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program*.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is Respite?** Respite is well-deserved time off. The Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 defines respite care as “planned or emergency care provided to a child or adult with a special need in order to provide temporary relief to the family caregiver of that child or adult.”
2. **Who is the Primary Family Caregiver?** The Primary Family Caregiver is the family member or other adult providing ongoing unpaid care for an adult or child with a disability.



3. **Who is the Care Recipient or Disabled Family Member?** The Care Recipient or Disabled Family Member can be a person of any age with any type(s) of disability or chronic condition.
4. **Who is the Respite Provider?** The respite provider is an individual or agency selected by a family or caregiver to provide respite to an individual with special needs.
5. **Where can Respite Services be Provided?** Respite Services can be provided in: the family home; the home of a neighbor, friend, or family member; adult day centers; respite centers; residential care facilities; group homes; recreational settings; community based programs; hospitals; etc.
6. **What are Types of Respite?** Types of respite vary and include: skilled or unskilled care; the use of formal providers who are hired and trained by an agency; or informal providers that are available through parent or caregiver cooperatives, churches, or family and friends.
7. **Will DARS arrange the Respite Care?** DARS does not provide or arrange for respite care. This DARS program is participant directed. YOU are responsible for selecting, hiring, training, and paying a respite care provider of your choice, at a time that is convenient for you and your loved one. You may also use a community respite program (e.g., weekend respite program, therapeutic summer camp, adult day program). Respite and caregiver resources are available on the *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program* website at <http://www.vadars.org> and on the Virginia Navigator website at www.virginianavigator.org.
8. **What is Participant Directed Respite?** Participant directed respite is when family caregivers can employ and train formal or informal respite care providers using vouchers.
9. **Can I hire a Respite Provider who Lives in my Home or is Under 18?** If you choose to select a respite care provider yourself, the individual selected to provide the respite care ***MUST be at least 18 years old and cannot be someone who currently resides in your home.*** You are also responsible for negotiating the rate of pay with the respite care provider you select.
10. **Can I use my Current Respite Provider?** If the family currently receives respite services, funds cannot be used to replace current funding for respite/daycare or to pay for respite just to allow the caregiver to work. Funding must be used to provide services that allow the caregiver to take a break from caregiving duties: it must go “above and beyond” what is currently being received.
11. **Can I use the Reimbursement for Different Care Services/Days?** The \$400 does not have to be used all at once; it can be spread over several periods of respite care.
12. **Is there a Deadline to Use the Funding?** The \$400 must be used within 90 days, after approval of application and reimbursement requests must be submitted to DARS no later than 30 days after services are received.
13. **What are the Qualifications of the Program?** Requirements are as follows: The family caregiver and care recipient must reside full time in the same residence, within the commonwealth of Virginia; if the family currently receives respite or other care, funds cannot be used to replace current funding for respite/daycare; funds cannot be used so the



- family caregiver can work; 1 page documentation of disability must be submitted with the application.
14. **What is the \$400 for?** Funding must be used to provide services that allow the caregiver to take a break from caregiving duties.
 15. **When will I know if my Application has been approved?** If you are eligible for the Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program and funds are still available, you will be contacted within four weeks to confirm your approval.
 16. **When will I receive my Check?** It can take up to 30 days from the date your Reimbursement Form is received by DARS to get your reimbursement check from the Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program. This is in accordance with Virginia's Prompt Payment Act. If you have an existing government debt, you may not receive your entire refund.
 17. **Will the Check be sent to the Respite Provider?** Reimbursement checks will be made payable to you, the primary caregiver, and not to the respite care provider! YOU are responsible for payment to your respite care provider. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the address you indicate on the *Reimbursement Form*.
 18. **Can I pay the Respite Provider more than \$400?** The DARS *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program* will send a check to you, the Primary Family Caregiver, to reimburse you for payment you have made to the selected respite care provider, not to exceed \$400/household (or whatever specific amount was requested / approved on your *Application Form*). You will be reimbursed only for actual expenses that are documented and submitted to DARS. You may pay more than the voucher amount you requested from DARS, but YOU will be responsible for making up the difference between the amount approved through the *Lifespan Respite Voucher Program* and what you have agreed to pay the provider.
 19. **What if I have Multiple Disabled Family Members Living in my Home?** Even if you have more than one person in your home who will receive respite services, the maximum amount for reimbursement is \$400 per family.
 20. **Can I use this Program if I have Medicaid or Medicare?** You will not be disqualified for this program if you receive Medicaid or Medicare. We encourage individuals to seek out other resources for help with their disabled family member. Use of respite services allows the family caregiver to provide better care for longer periods of time if needed.
 21. **If I Receive Respite Services through Another Program, am I Still Eligible?** You will not be disqualified for this program if you receive respite services through another program. We encourage individuals to seek out other resources for help with their disabled family member. Use of respite services allows the family caregiver to provide better care for longer periods of time if needed. If the family currently receives respite services, funds cannot be used to replace current funding for respite/daycare or to pay for respite just to allow the caregiver to work. Funding must be used to provide services that allow the caregiver to take a break from caregiving duties: it must go "above and beyond" what is currently being received.
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If you have questions about the *Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program*, you can contact Mary Strawderman at our toll free number at 800-552-5019 or at 804-662-7505 or e-mail at mary.strawderman@dars.virginia.gov.

Submitting Claims to DMAS for ALF Assessments and Reassessments

Paige McCleary, Director Adult Protective Services Division

The following information is for AAA staff who conduct Assisted Living Facility (ALF) assessments and reassessments. This communication clarifies the process for submitting claims for ALF assessments and reassessments for payment to DMAS. The Auxiliary Grants (AG) Program is a state/locally funded program; there is no need for submission of the UAI and associated documents for an ALF assessment or reassessment to the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) via the electronic Preadmission Screening (ePAS) system. For Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Community Services Boards (CSBs) providing ALF assessments, please use the following process:

Initial ALF Assessment Claims Submission:

- Continue to complete the “traditional” paper UAI and associated documents for public pay (AG) individuals;
- Retain the completed paper forms in the individual’s record for future audit purposes;
- Submit the Medicaid Funded Long-Term Care Services Authorization Form DMAS-96 to the Local Department of Social Services eligibility worker who is processing the AG application.
- For claims submission, send only the completed DMAS-96 by mail or fax to:

DMAS, Division of Long-Term Care
Attention: Joann Atkins
600 East Broad Street, 10th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
FAX: 804-612-0050

- For initial assessments that have been mailed to DMAS and did include a completed DMAS-96, the claim will be submitted by DMAS/LTC Division for payment.

ALF Reassessment Claims Submission:



- Continue to complete the “traditional” paper UAI and associated documents for public pay AG individuals;
- Retain the completed paper forms in the individual’s record for future audit purposes; *do not submit any ALF assessment forms to DMAS*;
- Submit the Eligibility Communication Document (ECD) to the Local Department of Social Services eligibility worker who is processing the AG application.
- Upon completion of the reassessment, submit an electronic claim using the DMAS Medicaid web portal: www.virginiamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov

Select “Provider Resources”, then select “Claims Direct Data Entry (DDE)”

Note: Registration information is available at this site if the provider is not yet registered to submit claims. If you have any questions regarding the Virginia Medicaid Portal, please contact the Xerox Health Care Web Portal Support Desk; toll free, at 1-866-352-0496 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Effectively immediately, paper ALF assessments and reassessments received by Xerox are being returned to the originating agency with these instructions for claims submission on the cover sheet.

For questions regarding this email, please contact Tishaun Harris Ugworji at 804-662-7531 or Tishaun.harrisugworji@dars.virginia.gov Thank you for your assistance.

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center

Liz Havenner, Program Coordinator



ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center

The mission of the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center is to assist and promote the development of quality respite and crisis care programs; to help families locate respite and crisis care services in their communities; and to serve as a strong voice for respite in all forums.

New Respite Opportunity from Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel)

The ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center is pleased to share with you products and resources as they become available.



For additional respite resources, visit [ARCH Products and Publications](#).

To support the ARCH National Respite Coalition, [click here](#) to become a Member today.

[Subscribe](#) to ARCH's Newsletter.

To find respite services and funding information for your state or community, please visit the [National Respite Locator](#).





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Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief from FEMA

Cecily Slasor on behalf of Chip Stratton, DARS Emergency Coordination Officer

Individual and Community
Preparedness e-Brief |



It's Still Hurricane Season



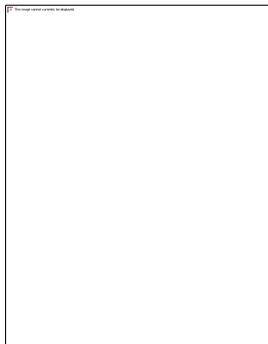
In the wake of recent severe weather events like Hurricane Joaquin, now is a good time to review [hurricane safety information](#) with your family and get prepared.

Before a hurricane hits your area, there are things you should do to prepare:

- Assemble your disaster supply kit and gather critical documents in the event that local authorities issue an evacuation order;
- Monitor weather reports provided by your local media;
- Sign up to receive text or email emergency alerts;
- Consider buying a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards receiver, which receives broadcast alerts from the National Weather Service; and
- Have extra batteries for a battery-operated radio and your cell phone in case of a power outage.

For more ways to stay safe before, during, and after a hurricane, check out the [How to Prepare for a Hurricane](#) guide from America's PrepareAthon!

Sesame Street Fire Safety Program Update



Are you an educator, parent, or caregiver of a preschooler? The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and its friends at Sesame Street have new fire safety information you can share with children.

The updated [Sesame Street Fire Safety Program](#) shows you how to teach kids ages 3-5 about essential fire safety information and skills that can be useful during an emergency. The program includes easy-to-use lessons, games, songs, and activities featuring familiar Sesame Street characters to help reinforce important fire safety and prevention messages.

To learn more about the Sesame Street Fire Safety Program and access program materials, visit the [USFA website](#). Materials are available in English and Spanish.

Preparing Your Pets for Shelter



When you prepare for disasters, be sure to make arrangements for your pets too! In the event that you have to evacuate to a public shelter, keep in mind that for health reasons, some facilities cannot accept pets, so it's important to prepare them for an alternative shelter. However, service animals are allowed in general

population shelters.

The *Ready* Campaign offers the following tips when [seeking a pet shelter](#):

- Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter, or animal control office to get advice and information; and
- If you're unable to return to your home right way, you may need to board your pet. Find out the location of boarding facilities and research some outside of your area in case local facilities are closed.

Once you've found an alternative shelter, follow these tips to keep your pet safe while they are away from you:

- Make sure microchips and identification tags are up-to-date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and phone number of your evacuation site;
- Take a current photo with your pet for identification purposes; and
- Pack a "pet survival kit." The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has a [checklist of emergency supplies](#) to include in the kit.

For more information about pet preparedness, check this [Ready resource guide](#).

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government



provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services for individual and community preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov.

Contact Us

EMAIL: citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov | TWITTER: [@Citizen_Corps](https://twitter.com/Citizen_Corps)



FEMA

Department of Emergency Management Listening Sessions

Cecily Slasor on behalf of Dawn Brantley, Sheltering Coordinator VDEM

Dear Colleagues,

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management is seeking your ideas for development of an integrated, statewide sheltering strategy. Our goal is to develop a statewide sheltering strategy that enhances and augments local and regional sheltering, using state resources in the most effective and efficient way possible. With your input, we can identify the best way to support sheltering at the local and regional levels. We can also develop the most effective way to use state resources to keep people as close to home as possible during sheltering. Finally, we want to develop a strategy that is adaptable and can flex between regions as needed.

We have reviewed and aggregated the feedback and concerns you all have provided over the past few years at various meetings across the state. We would like to take the next step and provide an opportunity for local emergency managers and emergency management stakeholders in sheltering to help craft this new strategy. Through a series of regional listening sessions that will be carried out across the Commonwealth, you can provide your input on new and evolving issues with sheltering, potential solutions, major concerns, what has been tried in the past and what worked and didn't work.



Part of the approach for these listening sessions is to have a well-balanced cross-section of representation from the whole community. That's why we are inviting local and regional emergency managers and planners, non-profits that have a role in sheltering, and other emergency management stakeholders from the community. These include disability advocates, military, healthcare, higher education, animal control and voluntary agencies.

I am working with VDEM'S regional staff to schedule the sessions in each region. Most of the meetings will be during the day and so far, the following dates and times have been scheduled:

- Nov. 4: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Charlottesville;
- Nov. 5: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Farmville;
- Nov. 9: 1 to 4 p.m. in Richmond;
- Nov. 12: 1 to 4 p.m. in Blackstone;
- Nov. 23 in Winchester;
- Dec. 8 in the far Southwest;
- Dec. 9 in the far Southwest;
- Jan. 5 on the Eastern Shore;
- Jan. 7 in Southside Hampton Roads;
- Jan. 14 in Williamsburg; and
- Jan. 19 in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck.

All dates, times and locations are listed on the Eventbrite registration page which will be updated as additional sessions are scheduled. We will also send notification to those regions as new sessions are finalized. If you are unable to attend a meeting in your region, please feel free to attend one in another region. Registration is required at

www.regionallisteningssessions2015.eventbrite.com

If there is an agency, organization or individual you feel should be included in the sessions, please email that information to me. If you are unable to attend any of the meetings, please feel free to email your ideas and concerns to me at: dawn.brantley@vdem.virginia.gov.

NASUAD Friday Update Archive and Subscription

Cecily Slasor, Administrative Assistant

Friday Update Archive

Did you miss a previous issue?
Check out [past Friday Updates](#).



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[Click here](#) to subscribe to Friday Update or other NASUAD news updates.



The Virginia Department of Emergency Management is developing a statewide sheltering strategy that will support and enhance local & regional sheltering.

We're looking for a few good ideas from experts like you.



For information contact:
Dawn Brantley
804-332-3432
dawn.brantley@vdem.virginia.gov

We've heard you

We've heard your concerns & needs; now it's time to take the next step and listen to your input on:

- VDEM's goals for sheltering
- How VDEM can best support local government
- Potential solutions
- ADA compliance
- Pet sheltering

Who should attend?

If you have a role in sheltering, we encourage you to attend. We are striving to include the whole community in these discussions including disability advocates, military, healthcare, animal control, voluntary agencies and higher ed.



****Registration is required****
regionallisteningssessions2015.eventbrite.com
Event dates, times and locations provided & updated on Eventbrite registration page.

