

## **Veteran's Independent Plus Program**

### **Program Overview**

The Veterans Independence Plus (VIP) Program is a special component of the Administration on Aging (AoA) Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Grant Initiative. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is providing an additional opportunity to State Units on Aging (SUAs) and their Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) sites to serve Veterans at risk of nursing home placement.

The VIP Program is limited to the service areas of the Bedford and Boston VA Medical Centers (VAMC) and the Aging and Disability Resource Consortiums within those areas. The VA Boston Healthcare System includes medical centers in West Roxbury, Brockton and Jamaica Plain and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Boston, Framingham, Quincy, Lowell, and Plymouth.

The VIP Program serves Veterans of any age that are at risk of nursing home admission which is defined by the VAMC as the inability to adequately self-care by requiring full assistance on at least 3 ADL's. This program provides Veterans the opportunity to receive home and community-based services to enable them to continue to live in their homes.

The goal of the VIP Program is to provide increased flexibility and access to home and community-based services that enable a Veteran to remain in the community. This program will allow a Veteran to receive a comprehensive assessment to identify his or her needs and preferences, develop an individual budget and service plan, and purchase goods and services (including the hiring, training, and termination of employees) that will best meet his/her needs. This spending plan must be approved by the local Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) and centrally at the appropriate VA Medical Center.

Within the VIP program, Veterans are not directly given the funds to manage, but work with the local ASAP and a fiscal intermediary. Veterans are, however, given control over the goods and services they purchase in order to remain in the community.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for the VIP Program, a Veteran must first be enrolled in the Veterans Administration for Health Care at Bedford or Boston, have a VA primary care team, meet the eligibility criteria for the home and community based services as determined by the VA, and receive a referral from the VA Medical Center to the ASAP in his/her service region

For a Veteran to qualify for the VIP Program, s/he must first be enrolled to receive primary care at either the Bedford or Boston VAMC, have a VA primary care team, meet

the eligibility criteria for home and community-based services as determined by the VA, and receive a referral from the VA Medical Center.

### Program Goals

1. The Veteran continues to reside in the setting of his/her choice.
2. The Veteran's needs are met.
3. The Veteran's optimal level of functioning and independence is achieved or maintained.
4. The Veteran is satisfied with services.
5. If applicable, the Veteran's primary caregiver(s) receive relief from caregiving responsibilities, as well as education and support, and continue to provide care.
6. If applicable, the Veteran's primary caregiver or family is satisfied with services.
7. The Veteran's services are provided in an efficient manner, without duplication of services.