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## **What is the Veterans Independence Plus Program (VIP)**

The VIP program is the VA Boston Healthcare System's Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program. The program provides Veterans, in need of nursing home level of care, a budget to buy services and goods to support them in their homes.

Veterans use their budget to hire their own personal care workers, including family members.

Veterans may not

- Use agencies to provide workers
- Hire people with legal financial responsibility or activated health care proxies.

Veterans may also use their budget to buy goods and supplies not provided by the VA.

## **What Services are Available**

- Hiring private caregiver(s) to complete activities of daily living (ADLs) such as eating, bathing, dressing, grooming, and toileting
- Adult day health care
- In-home respite services from community home care agencies
- Assistive technology such as emergency response systems and electronic pill reminders
- Snow removal
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and personal care supplies not provided by the VA
- Individual requests for medically necessary items will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

## **Informational Links**

[VA Geriatrics and Extended Care website](#)

[Administration for Community Living website](#)

## **How Can I Apply**

Contact your VA Social Worker to review home & community based services offered by the VA.

VA Boston Call Center 1-800-865-3384 and ask for your primary care Social Worker.

## **Effect on VA Benefits and Healthcare Services**

The VIP has no effect on VA pension or compensation benefits (service connection disability, aid & attendance).

Veterans enrolled in the VIP program remain eligible for 30 days of inpatient respite, but lose homemaker/home health aide, in-home respite, and adult day health care provided separately by the VA.

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## **Department of Veterans Affairs and Massachusetts Aging Services Access Points Collaboration**

The VA Boston works with Massachusetts Aging Service Access Points (ASAP) also known as elder services agencies to provide the VIP program to Massachusetts Veterans.

An eligible Veteran is referred to their local elder services agency and assigned a care advisor who will assist the Veteran with running the program.

The elder services care advisor will provide support throughout the Veteran's enrollment in the VIP program.

### **Eligibility**

The Veteran:

- Enrolled in the VA Boston Healthcare System
- Primary Care appointment with a VA Boston primary care provider during the previous 12 months
- Dependent on another person to complete four or more activities of daily living (bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, eating, ambulation, transferring, and bed mobility.)

### **Responsibilities:**

- The Veteran is responsible to hire, schedule, and train people to complete personal care tasks.
- If the Veteran is either cognitively or physically unable to manage the program, a representative must be assigned. The surrogate must live with the Veteran or regularly visit the Veteran in their home to monitor care.

## VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PLUS (VIP) PROGRAM



**VA Boston**  
Healthcare System