



# **Auxiliary Grant Supportive Housing**

**Report to**

**Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee  
Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee  
Director of the Department of Planning and Budget**

**Virginia Department for Aging  
and Rehabilitative Services**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Richmond  
August 1, 2017**



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

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August 1, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Co-Chairmen, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable S. Chris Jones  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

Dan Timberlake  
Director, Department of Planning and Budget

FROM: James A. Rothrock   
Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

SUBJECT: Annual Report on Auxiliary Grant (AG) Program Supportive Housing

As Commissioner of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), I am pleased to present the first annual AG Supportive Housing Report in response to the 2017 Appropriations Act, Item 337 D. This report provides a brief overview of AG supportive housing, stakeholder activities to implement AG supportive housing, and the status of AG recipients' transition to supportive housing.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JAR/pm

Enclosure

## **Executive Summary**

In 2016 the Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill (HB) 675 which amended the Code of Virginia and added a new setting to the Auxiliary Grant (AG) Program. Under this new provision, sixty individuals would have the opportunity to transition from an assisted living facility (ALF) to a community-based setting and receive supportive services while still maintaining their eligibility for AG. By August 1 of each year, the Department for Aging (DARS) is required to report, for the previous month of each fiscal year, the number of AG recipients living in supportive housing to the Director, Department of Planning and Budget and the Chairmen of the House of Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

As supportive housing is a new setting for the AG Program, the primary focus of state and local stakeholders over the past year has been developing the regulations, guidance, and contractual agreements necessary to successfully implement supportive housing. As of June 30, 2017, no AG recipients have transitioned to supportive housing, though it is anticipated that transitions will begin shortly after the start of state fiscal year (SFY) 2018.

## **SFY 2017 AUXILIARY GRANT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ACTIVITIES**

### **Background**

Section 51.5-160 of the Code of Virginia establishes the Auxiliary Grant (AG) Program and instructs the Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to prepare and implement a plan for a state and local funded AG program to provide assistance to individuals ineligible for benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act and to other individuals for whom benefits provided under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, are not sufficient to maintain the minimum standards of need.

The AG Program provides cash payments to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and other low income aged, blind, or disabled adults who need assistance with activities of daily living and who reside in an assisted living facility (ALF) or adult foster care (AFC) home. AG payments are 80% state funded and 20% locally funded.

In 2016, House Bill 675 passed the Virginia General Assembly and added a third setting, supportive housing (SH), to the AG Program. SH is defined as “a residential setting with access to supportive services for an AG recipient in which tenancy ... is provided or facilitated by a provider licensed to provide mental health community support services, intensive community treatment, programs of assertive community treatment, supportive in-home services, or supervised living residential services that has entered into an agreement with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services...”

### **Auxiliary Grant Supportive Housing (AGSH) Advisory Workgroup Activities**

The AGSH Advisory Workgroup, established in May 2016, provides guidance on the development of AGSH emergency regulations and the AGSH operating manual. The workgroup is chaired by the DARS Adult Protective Services Division and also includes representatives of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Community Services Boards (CSBs), Department of Social Services (DSS), Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS), non-profit SH providers, community members, and consumer advocates. Emergency regulations were approved January 9, 2017. The standard regulatory process has been initiated to replace the emergency regulations. The workgroup also developed operating guidance for AGSH which addressed the following:

- Eligibility criteria for the AGSH
- Procedures to recruit and retain eligible individuals
- Establishing parameters for coordination among ALF assessors, ALF providers, and other relevant stakeholders

- Selection criteria for AGSH providers
- Provider agreements
- Participant agreements
- Troubleshooting implementation and operational issues

The operational manual was finalized in January, 2017.

### **AGSH Provider Selection Process**

AGSH providers must be licensed by DBHDS as mental health community support service, intensive community treatment, program of assertive community treatment, supportive in-home or supervised living residential services providers.

A DBHDS Request for Proposals (RFP) for AGSH providers was issued in January 2017 and proposals were due on February 20, 2017. AGSH providers were selected through the competitive process which was overseen by DBHDS and included a review of the following factors:

- Community need and rental housing market capacity
- Provider experience in operating high quality SH and community-based services to support individuals in lease-based housing
- Provider experience and established connections with ALF assessors, LDSS, and other AG stakeholders to facilitate engagement and retention of eligible consumers
- Provider capacity to deliver services through existing staffing, staffing sustained by additional Medicaid revenue, or through other established community partnerships
- Commitment to work with DBHDS and DARS to develop an effective SH model, including provision of client-level utilization and outcome data

The contracts to provide 60 slots for SH were awarded to three entities:

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority (20 slots)
- Mount Rogers Community Service Board (20 slots)
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (20 slots)

Selected providers entered into AGSH provider agreements with DBHDS and agreements were completed May 15, 2017.

### **Training for Affected Parties**

DARS has provided webinar training for LDSS eligibility and family services workers. DBHDS is sponsoring SH training in various localities around the state for CSBs, Behavioral Health Authorities and other interested parties.

## **Conclusion**

DARS and DBHDS have worked diligently to ensure that emergency regulations, guidance, and training have been implemented to prepare SH providers and other stakeholders for the changes in the AG Program. As of June 30, 2017, no AG recipients have transitioned to supportive housing. However, each of the three SH providers are in the final stages of preparing to transition individuals efficiently and safely to SH shortly after the start of state fiscal year (SFY) 2018. DARS and DBHDS will continue to monitor the process and the integrity of the program to ensure SH is successfully implemented.