



# **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, 2018**



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

KATHRYN A. HAYFIELD  
Commissioner

8004 Franklin Farms Drive  
Henrico, VA 23229

Office (804) 662-7000  
Toll free (800) 552-5019  
TTY Toll free (800) 464-9950  
Fax (804) 662-7644

August 1, 2018

**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: Kathryn A. Hayfield   
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 State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 AG Supportive Housing Report in response to the 2018 Appropriations Act, Item 334 D.

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

KH/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 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 the AG program. By August 1 of each year, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is required to report, for each month of the previous fiscal year, the number of AG recipients living in supportive housing to the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget and the Chairmen of the House of Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

As of June 22, 2018, 23 AG recipients have transitioned to supportive housing. This represents significant growth in the program as no individuals had moved to this setting in state fiscal year (SFY) 2017.

## **SFY 2018 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 locally 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) Provider Group**

Established in May 2017, the AGSH provider group is comprised of providers approved by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and other stakeholders. During most of state fiscal year (SFY) 2018, the group, led by the DBHDS Homeless Projects Coordinator and the DARS AG Program Manager, met weekly by conference call. The calls addressed program implementation and covered various topics including:

- Policy interpretation and application;
- Technical assistance; and
- Updates on the process to promulgate permanent regulations to replace emergency regulations.

The entities that provide SH are:

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority (20 slots);

- Mount Rogers Community Service Board (20 slots); and
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (20 slots).

**AGSH census by provider as of June 22, 2018**

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority (13 housed)
- Mount Rogers Community Service Board (4 housed)
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (6 housed)

**Number of AGSH recipients in SFY 2018 by month**

7/17	8/17	9/17	10/17	11/17	12/17	1/18	2/18	3/18	4/18	5/18	6/18
0	0	1	1	2	3	7	7	13	14	16	23

**SFY 2018 Challenges**

As a new service option, it took some time for community services boards and local departments of social services (LDSS) to understand the referral process for individuals who expressed interest in transitioning to AGSH. Some providers were not ready to implement the program due to staff shortages and turnover. There were also delays in AG payment processing as LDSS finance staff did not fully understand the logistics of the SH setting. In addition, some individuals had already been reassessed and had to wait until the next evaluation cycle to be considered for AGSH.

DBHDS and DARS staff addressed these concerns and helped resolve some of the barriers that individuals and providers were experiencing. To ensure that barriers do not persist, DARS continues to provide training for LDSS eligibility and family services workers. The initial training was targeted to the catchment areas for the AGSH program. The training is now being expanded to all localities to raise awareness of AGSH option.

**Conclusion**

As of June 23, 2018, 23 AG recipients have transitioned to the SH setting. However, the SH providers have identified several individuals who are expected to transition to SH at the start of SFY 2019. DARS and DBHDS will continue to monitor the process and the integrity of the program to ensure AGSH continues to be implemented successfully and all SH allocations are utilized.