



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, 2019**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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August 1, 2019

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 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) 2019 AG Supportive Housing Report in response to the 2019 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, individuals may receive AG while residing in a supportive housing setting. 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 2019, there are 33 AG recipients residing in supportive housing. This represents a 44% increase in AG supportive housing recipients from state fiscal year (SFY) 2018.

SFY 2019 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...”

Virginia AGSH providers

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 2019

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority (16 housed)
- Mount Rogers Community Service Board (11 housed)
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (6 housed)

Number of AGSH recipients in SFY 2019 by month

7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/19
20	22	26	29	33	29	29	33	38	35	35	33

Changes to AGSH

Two legislative proposals that passed the 2019 Virginia General Assembly Session changed the AGSH program significantly. House Bill 2017 and Senate Bill 1286 enabled eligible individuals to enter SH without first having to reside in an ALF for a year. Streamlining access opened SH to individuals awaiting discharge from hospitals. Additionally, individuals residing in a community setting who were hesitant to move to the more restrictive ALF setting for the sole purpose of eventually transitioning to SH, will now be able to access SH directly. The legislation also increased the number of available AGSH slots from 60 to 90, which will help each AGSH provider respond to future demand for this level of support. These changes take effect on July 1, 2019.

Conclusion

As of June 2019, 33 AG recipients have transitioned to the SH setting. DARS will collaborate with other stakeholders, including the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services, local departments of social services, and community services boards to monitor the process and the integrity of the program and ensure AGSH continues a successful implementation in Virginia.