



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

IL 10-2011-010

In Reply Refer To: 10NC

December 27, 2011

UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH'S INFORMATION LETTER

2-YEAR VETERAN'S CHILDCARE PILOT PROGRAM

1. This Information Letter provides information regarding the 2-year Veteran's childcare pilot program for children of qualified Veterans.
2. Under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, Section 205 (Public Law 111-163), Congress required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a childcare pilot program in no fewer than three separate Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN). The law requires that the pilot program assess the feasibility and advisability of providing assistance for childcare to qualified Veterans receiving VA care. The law limits the provision of childcare assistance to the period that the qualified Veteran receives VA health care services on an outpatient basis at a VA facility. To be qualified, a Veteran must be the primary caretaker of the child or children. For purposes of this pilot program, VA has determined that all health care services are intensive and that the provision of childcare would improve access to such services for qualified Veterans.
3. VA launched the first childcare pilot site in Buffalo, NY (VISN 2) on October 3, 2011. It is anticipated that the Northport, NY (VISN 3) pilot site will open in the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2012, and the third pilot site in Tacoma, WA (VISN 20) in the third quarter of FY 2012.
4. All pilot childcare sites are expected to be operated on-site by licensed childcare providers under contract with VA and without charge to qualified Veterans.
5. The pilot program began on October 3, 2011 and is authorized to operate for 2 years. All sites close as of October 2, 2013. After which, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is to submit a report on the findings and outcomes of this pilot program to Congress on or before April 2, 2014.
6. Services vary somewhat at each pilot site in order to adapt to the needs of the qualified Veteran population served at that site.
7. The Statement of Work for each contract site specifies the services to be provided and addresses the following requirements:
 - a. The maximum capacity of the childcare site.

IL 10-2011-010
December 27, 2011

- b. Age range of children to be accepted for care.
 - c. The method for scheduling a child for placement at the childcare site.
 - d. The hours of operation.
 - e. Requirements concerning facility access and control.
 - f. Requirements to adhere to standards of appropriate childcare accreditation programs (such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children) and state licensing, if applicable.
 - g. Performance requirements and expectations, including liability. The liability, if any, of the United States for injury or loss of property, or personal injury or death is governed exclusively by the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act.
 - h. Performance measures, performance review, contract oversight and quality control and assurance.
 - i. Key child development center personnel and personnel requirements (including staffing standards, support staff, direct care staff and staff background screening).
 - j. Government furnished property and services.
 - k. Contractor furnished staff, equipment, and services.
 - l. Deliverable reports and records maintenance.
 - m. Payment and invoicing.
 - n. Post-award evaluation of past performance.
8. Questions regarding this Information Letter may be directed to Tammy Czarnecki, Deputy Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations at 202-461-7064, or by email at Tammy.Czarnecki2@va.gov.

Robert A. Petzel, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

DISTRIBUTION: E-mailed to the VHA Publications Distribution List 12/28/2011