

VEMAT Changes Effective October 1, 2012

■ Enhanced Maintenance Rates

New VEMAT rates are effective statewide on October 1, 2012. The new rates were determined after comparing basic and enhanced maintenance rates in Virginia to those in other states. Currently, Virginia's combined foster parent rates (which include both basic and enhanced maintenance rates) are among the highest nationwide. The enhanced maintenance rate, as assessed through the VEMAT, is reduced 30%.

The change to the enhanced rate will occur on a "go-forward" basis only. Local departments of Social Services will begin using the new rates for every VEMAT administered as of October 1, 2012. The monthly payment for children receiving the current enhanced maintenance rates who do not require a regularly scheduled readministration of the VEMAT prior to February 1, 2013, must shift to the new rate on February 1, 2013.

■ VEMAT Tool

The new VEMAT tool will be available for use on October 1, 2012. The tool was revised to more comprehensively capture the needs of children, and the layout of the form was changed from *landscape* to *portrait* orientation. There are no changes in the way the tool is administered.

■ VEMAT Rater Training

The five Virginia Department of Social Services regional Permanency Consultants will provide VEMAT Rater Training in late September and into October, 2012. Only individuals who attend and complete the entire VEMAT training session are allowed to administer the tool. Individuals already trained in the application of the VEMAT are strongly encouraged to attend this training.

■ VEMAT Monitoring and Technical Assistance

In order to increase consistency in administration of the VEMAT across raters, localities and regions, the Permanency Consultants will be attending several VEMAT meetings in each LDSS throughout the year. The Consultants will contact the LDSS in their respective regions to arrange dates to attend VEMAT meetings. VDSS will provide ongoing technical assistance for the administration of the VEMAT, as well as oversight and monitoring of the utilization of the tool to determine enhanced maintenance rates.

■ VEMAT Rate Structure Effective Oct. 1, 2012

Score	New Rate
0	-
4	224
8	448
12	672
16	896

20	1,120
24	1,344
28	1,568
32	1,792
36	2,016