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## Information on the Closure of Vineland Developmental Center

The Fiscal Year 2011 budget announced consolidation of Vineland Developmental Center's (VDC) West Campus by June 2011 and the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget contains language identifying the *complete* closure of VDC by June 2013. Accordingly, the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and VDC will *immediately* proceed with closure groundwork while the Legislature is reviewing and finalizing the budget.

Over the last several years, many more families prefer in-home services to support their relatives with developmental disabilities. In addition, expanding community placement opportunities have reduced the state's developmental centers' census. As a result, the Department must rebalance resources and reconfigure the existing system of care to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Further, in accordance with the United States' Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision, states must provide community living options and other supports to individuals with disabilities who do not require institutionalized care. The proposed closure of VDC advances New Jersey's progress in this regard.

Staff from the Department, Division and VDC – collectively - recognize that the closure of a developmental center is an emotional issue. Many have concerns for the well-being of residents discharged from VDC and employment alternatives for current staff at the Center. There will be outreach to all affected stakeholders through email, newsletters and phone calls.

**For additional information about VDC and the closure plan, see the links below:**

[VDC Announcement](#)

[VDC Fact Sheet](#)

[VDC Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)





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### **Vineland Developmental Center Proposed Closure**

Notification to DDD Staff, Provider Agencies, Stakeholders, and Advocates/Advocacy Groups

The Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget contains language identifying the closure of Vineland Developmental Center (VDC) by June 30, 2013, as recommended by the Department of Human Services. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and VDC will immediately proceed with closure groundwork while the Legislature is reviewing and finalizing the budget.

In accordance with the United States' Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision, states must provide community living options and other supports to individuals with disabilities who do not require institutionalized care. The proposed closure of VDC advances New Jersey's progress in this regard.

Over the last several years, many more families prefer in-home services to support their relatives with developmental disabilities. In addition, expanding community placement opportunities have reduced the state's developmental centers' census. As a result, the Department must rebalance resources and reconfigure the existing system of care to individuals with developmental disabilities.

We recognize that the closure of a developmental center is an emotional issue. Many of you will have concerns for the well-being of residents moving from VDC and employment alternatives for current staff at the Center. DDD will be reaching out to families and staff throughout the closure process, via letters, phone calls and meetings. In addition, during the upcoming months, you will have several opportunities to hear details about the proposal at informational sessions, meetings and a public hearing.

Information regarding the closure also will be posted on the DDD website at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/centers/vdcclosure.html>, as it becomes available.

If you have any immediate questions, you may call DDD Central Office at 609-631-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dawn Apgar", written over a horizontal line.

Dawn Apgar  
Deputy Commissioner  
NJ Department of Human Services

### **Vineland Developmental Center Fact Sheet**

- Vineland Developmental Center (VDC) is one of seven developmental centers operated by the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities.
- VDC is located on 257 acres in Vineland, Cumberland County, New Jersey.
- The Center was established in 1888 as an alternative school for women and girls with disabilities, is the oldest of the seven developmental centers, and at one time provided residence to over 1,000 women.
- VDC serves only women with developmental disabilities.
- VDC has two campuses – West and East and they are located about five miles apart.
- West Campus is located on approximately 69 acres of VDC.
- There are 3 residential units housing 42 women on the VDC West Campus, which is scheduled to close June 30, 2011 per FY'11 budget.
- There are 14 residential units housing 346 women on the VDC East Campus, which has been identified for closure in June 2013 per the proposed FY'12 budget.
- More than 71% of the women residing at VDC are between the ages of 41 and 64.
- Each resident will be assessed for their ability to live in the community and to determine the supports they would need to do so.
- Families of residents are being outreached by VDC and DDD staff for inclusion in the planning and moving process.
- As of 2/07/2011, there were approximately 1,460 employees working at VDC, 67% of whom reside in Cape May County and parts of Atlantic and Cumberland Counties.
- Due to the two year closure timeframe, during which retirements and natural attrition will occur, there are no projections regarding a need for employee layoffs.
- The VDC closure advances New Jersey's Olmstead efforts to focus on a decreased reliance on state institutions for residential services to create community residential programs and provide in-home supports to families.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Vineland Developmental Center closure

### ***What is happening?***

The Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget contains language identifying the closure of Vineland Developmental Center (VDC) by June 2013, as recommended by Department of Human Services. Though the Legislature has until June 2011 to review the provisions and vote on a final budget, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and VDC will immediately proceed with closure groundwork.

### ***Why is a developmental center being closed?***

Over the last several years, many more families prefer in-home services or community placement for their relatives with developmental disabilities. These decisions have reduced the state's developmental centers' census. As a result, the Department must rebalance resources and reconfigure the existing system of care.

### ***Why was Vineland chosen instead of another developmental center?***

The decision to close VDC followed a comprehensive analysis of many factors including regional accessibility, residents' community placement readiness, local community placement vacancies, the number of residents and their families who support community placement, VDC's per diem rate and the aging infrastructure of the facility.

### ***How will VDC residents be assessed for community-readiness and how will their placement be coordinated?***

Residents of VDC have been assessed by their Interdisciplinary Team (IDTs) to determine if they can live in the community with supportive services. The well-being of VDC residents is a priority. Families will be integral participants at all stages of planning as decisions are made about moves to the community or other settings. The Division of Developmental Disabilities' and VDC staff will be outreaching families throughout the closure process, with letters, phone calls and scheduled meetings.

### ***I am a VDC employee. How will the state of New Jersey help me during the closure process?***

The Department is committed to providing employee supports that promote workforce stability and opportunities for employees to determine their future. Vineland's employees will be kept apprised of all available options for their continued involvement in supporting residents moved to community placements or transferred to other developmental centers. Regular communications will take place to ensure that employees are kept informed about progress on the facility closure and about available job opportunities. Key aspects of this in-reach include: The Vineland Employee Newsletter, General Employee Meetings (Town Halls) and a website link: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/centers/vdcclosure.html>.