
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA)
HOMELESS PROGRAM OFFICE**


Housing Veterans Most in Need:
An Overview of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development-
Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

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 **WHAT IS HUD-VASH?**


- A collaborative program with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), who provides Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) allocated to participating public housing authorities (PHA) to assist with rental payments.
- VA provides clinical case management and services to assist Veterans to obtain and sustain permanent housing while also assisting Veterans with access to treatment and other supportive services that promote their quality of life.

2

 **WHAT IS HUD-VASH?**


- Targets and prioritizes the chronically homeless and most vulnerable homeless Veterans first.
- Primary goal is to move Veterans and their families out of homelessness into permanent supportive housing while promoting maximum Veteran recovery and independence in the community.
- Operates utilizing the principles of Housing First.

3

 COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES


Myth	Reality
"Housing First" just means "anything goes".	

4

 COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES


Myth	Reality
Housing First provides quick access to housing while also providing critical needed services.	

5

 PRINCIPLES OF HOUSING FIRST

1. Housing as a basic human right.
2. Respect, warmth, and compassion for all clients.
3. A commitment to working with clients for as long as they need.
4. Scattered-site housing, independent apartments.
5. Separation of housing and services.
6. Consumer choice and self-determination.
7. A recovery orientation.
8. Harm reduction.


6



USE OF EVIDENCE BASED CLINICAL MODELS

- Housing First = treatment is not required for program.
- Case management participation is required.
- Clinician expected to work at highest level of licensure/competencies.
- Clinical engagement depends on:
 - Clinician's training.
 - Veteran's needs.
 - Veteran's goals.
 - Threats to the Veteran's housing stability/overall stability.


7



BASIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Between fiscal year (FY) 2008 and FY 2017 there have been almost 93,000 HUD-VASH vouchers funded by Congress.
 - VA and HUD are currently working to allocate another 5,000 vouchers from the FY 2018 HUD budget.
- VA currently has approximately 4,000 staff working in HUD-VASH (not including contracted staff).
 - Anticipate adding up to 200 additional staff to support the FY 2018 vouchers that are being allocated.
- Contributor to an almost 50% drop in Veteran homelessness since 2010.
 - Ongoing bipartisan support.


8



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?


- Basic Eligibility:
 - Homeless Veteran.
 - Demonstrates a need for case management and supportive services to maintain permanent housing.
 - Eligible for VHA care and services.
 - Not a lifetime registered sexual offender (verified by PHA).
 - Not over local income limits (verified by PHA).
- Greatest need is served first.
 - Not a first come, first served program.

9

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**


Myth	Reality
Veterans need to have income to participate in HUD-VASH.	

10

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**


Myth	Reality
While there is a cap on how much income a Veteran can receive, there is no minimum income requirement for Veterans to be eligible. Veterans can be housed in HUD-VASH with no income. However, living long term without resources is difficult. Therefore, we recommend that case managers and Veterans begin immediately working to obtain income.	

11

 **HOW IS HOMELESSNESS DEFINED?**


- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements.
- Residing in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.
- Imminent Risk.
- Domestic Violence.

12

 **TARGETED POPULATIONS**


- Chronically Homeless:
 - Follows the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition.
 - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or in an emergency shelter.
 - Have a disability.
 - Continuously homeless for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years totaling 12 months.
- Most Vulnerable:
 - Demonstrate the most need or vulnerability based on unique clinical and/or psychosocial circumstances.
 - Follow HUD prioritization for non-chronically homeless Veterans.

13

 **PRIORITIZATION OF NON-CHRONICALLY HOMELESS VETERANS**


- HUD Prioritization:
 1. Disability with long periods of episodic homelessness and severe service needs.
 2. Disabled with severe service needs.
 3. Disabled coming from places not meant for human habitation, safe havens, or emergency shelters without severe service needs.
 4. Disabled coming from transitional housing.
- VA Priority Populations:
 - Women.
 - Veterans with children.
 - Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn.
 - Aging.
 - Debilitating clinical conditions.

14

 **REFERRING A VETERAN**


- "No Wrong Door":
 - No matter where a Veteran is identified as homeless, s/he should be assessed and referred to the most appropriate program.
 - Coordinated entry.
- Local Continuum of Care, community partners, other community-based stakeholders.
- VA's National Homeless Call Center:
 - 1.877.4AID.VET (1.877.424.3838)
- Self-referral.
- Other VA homeless programs.
- Other VA or community medical facilities and programs:
 - Community Based Outpatient Centers.
 - Vet Centers.

15

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**


Myth	Reality
VA is responsible for paying the rent.	

16

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**

Myth	Reality
HUD-VASH utilizes HCVs issued by local PHAs to provide rental subsidies. Participating Veterans may have rent payment obligations depending on their situation. VA does not disburse any funds and instead provides the needed supportive services.	


17

 **SERVICES AND CASE MANAGEMENT**

- Responsibility of the VHA.
- Team approach:
 - Multidisciplinary.
 - Shared caseloads.
 - Lead case manager may vary based on Veteran needs and wants.
- Provide support and services from admission to lease up to housing.
 - Intensity will vary based on Veteran needs and wants.


- Assist with obtaining and sustaining housing.
- Engage in treatment.
- Community integration.
- Increase quality of life.

18

 **WHAT DOES "SEPARATION OF HOUSING AND SERVICES" REALLY MEAN?**


- The case management and the implementation of the lease are separate.
- Clinical services are provided by VA staff:
 - Help support the tenants of the lease.
 - Progressively engage Veterans.
 - How actions may result in lease violations.
- Landlords need to enforce the lease as they would for any other renter:
 - Written warnings.
 - Timely payment of rent.

19

 **VOUCHER TYPES**


- Tenant-Based Vouchers:
 - The HCV program allows very-low income families to choose and lease or purchase safe, decent, and affordable privately-owned rental housing.
- Project-Based Vouchers:
 - Component of the PHA's housing support program.
 - PHA enters into an assistance contract with the owner of a property for a specified number of units and for a specified term.
 - Assistance is tied to the rental unit.

20

 **TENANT-BASED HUD-VASH**


- Majority of HUD-VASH vouchers are issued as tenant-based.
 - Approximately 86,300 HUD-VASH vouchers.
- Allows Veterans to choose where they live.
- Voucher moves with the Veteran.
- May be able to offer more choice in housing.
- Value is based on the Fair Market Rate.
- Rental calculation for HUD-VASH Veterans is the same as under the regular HCV program.

21

 **PROJECT-BASED HUD-VASH**


- Allows for a greater concentration of services to be provided to Veterans.
- Can create Veteran communities and support systems.
- Veteran choice in selecting project-based housing.
- Adds dedicated housing stock for Veterans in the HUD-VASH program.
- Subsidy is attached to the unit and is not transferrable.
- Value is based on the Fair Market Rate.
- Rental calculation for HUD-VASH Veterans are the same as under the regular HCV program.

22

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**


Myth	Reality
HUD-VASH Case Managers will tell the landlord when Veterans breaks rules.	

23

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**

Myth	Reality
HUD-VASH Case Managers are health care providers and are bound by the privacy rules and guidelines similar to a doctor/patient relationship.	


24

 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**

Myth | Reality

HUD-VASH Case Managers can **make** Veterans "toe the line".


25

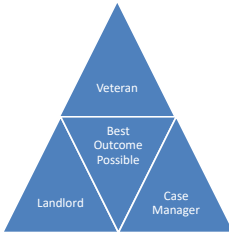
 **COMMON MYTHS VS. REALITIES**

Myth | **Reality**


While it is not the role of the HUD-VASH Case Manager to enforce PHA and landlord rules, they will work with Veterans to understand the consequences of violating tenant rules.

26

 **PARTNERSHIPS AND ROLES**




27

 **VETERAN'S ROLE**


- With support of case management team:
 - Finding housing.
 - Paying rent and utilities on time.
 - Following the rules of tenancy.
- Participate in case management services:
 - Will vary based on needs and wants.
 - Individualized.
- Comply with PHA requirements.

28

 **CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S ROLE**


- Identify, assess, admit.
- Providing services based on acuity.
- Facilitate and provide access to appropriate treatment and supportive case management.
- Empower and respect self-determination in areas most important to Veterans.
- Assist with connecting and rooting into community.
- Help Veteran understand how actions may impact tenancy.
- Facilitate communication with landlord, when appropriate.

29

 **LANDLORD'S ROLE**


- Hold Veteran to tenancy requirements.
- Communicate any concerns and pending issues.
 - Late rent.
 - Noise or litter.
 - Guests.
 - Other lease violations.
- Understand that HUD-VASH is a clinical program.
 - Some information is privileged.

30

 **CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM AND LANDLORD/PROPERTY MANAGER COLLABORATION**



- Development of partnership.
- Be available at critical times – we are an asset.
- Visit client routinely and check in with landlord or resident manager.
- Work with tenant to reduce most concerning behaviors (drug related, aggression, property destruction).

31


 **Other VA Services in Need of Affordable Housing Units for Veterans**

- Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Contract Residential Services (CRS)
- Grant and Per-Diem (GPD) Transitional Housing
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
- Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)
- Compensated Work Therapy / Transitional Residence (CWT/TR)

32

  **Question & Answer**

33




RESOURCES

VA Homeless Veterans Internet site
<http://www.va.gov/homeless/>

HUD-VASH Internet site
<https://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>

Contact Information:
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Help for Homeless Veterans
877-4AID-VET
va.gov/homeless | (877) 424-3838

34
