

Conference Call Highlights  
Grant and Per Diem Program Operational Call

July 11, 2011

1. Roger Casey discussed the external reviews of the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program that are taking place.
  - a. GAO review. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an agency that assists the U.S. Congress in evaluating federal programs. GAO is conducting a study on the characteristics and needs of homeless women Veterans, programs that serve these Veterans, and any barriers which may hinder homeless women Veterans from accessing federally-sponsored programs or services. As part of this review they will be surveying those GPD providers that self-identified in their grant application that they serve women Veterans. It is estimated that the final report will be out in 4-6 months. If your facility will be reviewed, you should have received a survey by fax. The GAO staff will also conduct selected site visits during which staff and Veterans may be interviewed.
  - b. OIG review. The GPD program is presently going through a national review by the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG). They are selecting medical centers around the country and looking at various elements of program monitoring and service provision. They will be reviewing: 1) how the GPD program addresses the needs of homeless Veterans; 2) are grantees providing the scope of services as outlined in their original application or through subsequent approved changes of scope; and 3) how are services monitored. If your agency is selected to be part of this review your Liaison should notify you when a visit is scheduled.  
  
**NOTE:** Recently during one of the OIG reviews there was concern cited regarding mixed gender populations within the same facility. It is very important that organizations ensure the scope of services as well as the design and configuration of the facility are appropriate for the populations being served. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all participants.
  - c. Fiscal reviews. VHA's Office of Finance has engaged a group, Daniel Eke and Associates, to conduct fiscal reviews of GPD Programs. The results of their reports will eventually be provided to the GPD Program office and if there are concerns identified regarding your organization's cost allocations, per diem rate, etc. you will be notified. It is the responsibility of all GPD providers to ensure that they are charging costs in accordance with the OMB Circulars for Grants Management.
2. Change of Scope Requests. Please take the time to carefully review your original grant application. If your organization would like to make changes to the scope of services provided, populations served, or any other component of the original application this must be requested in writing and approved by the GPD Program office. Guidance on the submission of these requests is available on the GPD Provider website ([http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD\\_ProviderWebsite.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp)). It is important to involve your liaison in discussions regarding program changes.
3. Mr. Casey mentioned that Fannie Mae has quite a few properties that may be available and are willing to work with non-profit organizations. Interested organizations may contact Maria Barker with Fannie Mae at 202-752-4834 for more information.
4. Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA). A NOFA has not yet been published for FY 11. The GPD Program's current FY 2011 operating costs are approaching the maximum authorization allowed by law. VA is exploring legislative options to modify this law.
5. Mr. Casey reminded the grantees to keep the GPD Program office informed of any changes in program leadership staff, phone numbers, address, email, etc.